

CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

SATURDAY, APRIL 11.

Mr. Ingham, from the committee on post offices and post roads, to whom was referred an inquiry into the expediency of establishing, in one of the western states, a branch of the General Post Office for the purpose of making contracts for the conveyance of the mail, and to correct any abuses in the service of that department, made a report unfavorable to such a measure; which was read and ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Lowndes, from the committee on Ways and Means, reported a bill supplementary to the several acts making appropriations for the year 1818, which was twice read and committed.

On motion of Mr. Owen, the committee on Post Offices were instructed to enquire into the expediency of establishing a post route from Duplin Court-house to Newbern, in North-Carolina.

The house then went into the consideration of the bill from the Senate, "concerning navigation," which was yesterday reported to the house by the committee of the whole, without amendment.

The bill being put on its passage to be engrossed for a third reading & passed, 128 to 16. Messrs. Hall & Stewart, from this State, voted in the negative.

The bill being thus ordered to a third reading, was forthwith read a third time, passed, and returned to the Senate.

MONDAY, APRIL 13

Mr. H. Nelson, from the Judiciary committee, to whom was referred the bill from the Senate supplementary to the act to prohibit the importation of slaves into the United States, reported the same with some amendments, which were agreed to by the House, and the bill laid on the table.

The bill in addition to an act giving pensions to the widows and orphans of persons slain in the public and private armed vessels of the United States, passed through a committee of the whole, and was ordered to be engrossed.

The house went into a committee of the whole on the bill repealing so much of an act as allows pay and emoluments to brevet rank, and on the bill from the Senate "regulating the pay & emoluments of brevet rank."

The committee rose and reported the bills without amendment; when the bill last mentioned from the Senate was ordered to a third reading, and the former, the bill of this House, postponed indefinitely.

The House next resolved itself into a committee of the whole, on the bill to increase the duties on imported iron in bars and bolts, iron in pigs, castings, nails and allum, and to disallow the drawback of duties on the re-exportation of gunpowder.

The discussion of the object of this bill, and of its details, consumed more than two hours; in which Messrs. Clay, Kinsey, Smith of N. C. Smith of Md. Morton and Sergeant were the most active.

The committee rose without taking any question, and obtained leave to sit again.

Mr. Slocumb, from the managers on the part of this House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses, on the amendments of this House to the bill directing the mode of appointing Indian agents, &c. made a report, which was read and ordered to lie on the table, and the House adjourned.

TUESDAY, APRIL 14.

Mr. Lowndes, from the committee of ways and means, reported amendments to be proposed to the bill supplementary to the several acts relative to direct taxes and internal duties; which were read and ordered to lie on the table.

The bill for the admission of the territory of Illinois into the Union; and the bill better to enforce our neutral obligations, were returned to this House with sundry amendments to each; which were referred to the proper committees.

The House took up for consideration the bill supplementary to the act to regulate the collection of duties on imports and tonnage.

The bill contains 27 sections, embracing numerous provisions to ensure the more rigid collection of the duties on imports and to prevent frauds and evasions thereof.

The bill, after some discussion was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

The House took up the report of the conferees on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the bill directing the mode of appointing Indian agents, &c.

On motion of Mr. Slocumb, the House resolved to recede from their amendment to said bill, to which they have disagreed, and agree to

the amendment contained in the second recommendation of the conferees.

The House again resolved itself into a committee of the whole, on the bill to increase the duties on iron in bars and bolts, iron in pigs, castings, nails, and allum, and to disallow the drawback on gunpowder: the motion to strike out the first section, being under consideration—

Mr. Sergeant spoke at much length in support of this bill, and of the expediency of extending additional protection to the manufacturers interested in the bill.

He was replied to by Mr. Smith, of N. C. who opposed the bill, and supported his motion to strike out the first section.

The motion to strike out the first section, was negatived;—and.

The committee having gone through this bill, took up the bill to increase the duties on certain manufactured articles (shot, paper, &c.) imported into the United States, and to change the duty from an ad valorem to a specific one.

A motion by Mr. Colston, to strike out the first section, was lost.

Some other amendments were made to both the bills, and some proposed that were rejected, which gave rise to much debate.

Among the motions which prevailed, was one, by Mr. Pitkin, to strike out the proposed modification of the duty on paper.

The bills having been reported to the House, the amendments made were generally agreed to without a division.

Mr. Little made an attempt to retain the clause for modifying the duty on paper, which failed, by a considerable majority.

Mr. Butler renewed the motion, which had been previously made in committee of the whole by Mr. Morton, to strike out one dollar, the duty proposed hereafter to be levied on iron in bars and bolts, manufactured without rolling. This motion was negatived, by Yeas and Nays—82 to 50.

After rejecting several motions to adjourn, the two bills were finally ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

[As ordered to a third reading, the contents of these bills vary from the statement heretofore given of them, by the omission of the proposed duty on paper, and by the addition of the following:

On spikes three cents per pound; on anchors 2 cents per pound; on cut glass 50 per cent. ad valorem; on brown Russia sheeting, not exceeding 52 archines in each piece, 1 dollar 60 cents per piece; or white do. do. 2 dollars and 50 cents per piece. The two acts to take effect from the 30th June next.]

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15.

Mr. Williams, from the committee of claims, reported a bill to transfer the duties of the Commissioner of Claims to the third Auditor of the Treasury.—Twice read.

On motion of Mr. Simkins, who considered the bill as highly important to the southern states particularly; seconded by Mr. Harrison, who considered it equally important to the states not holding slaves, bordering on the slave-holding states, the House proceeded to the consideration of the bill from the Senate, supplementary to the act prohibiting the importation of slaves.

Mr. Simkins proposed an amendment to the bill, providing for disposing of slaves seized for being illegally imported, by sale, one half of the proceeds to the benefit of the United States, the other to the benefit of the officers making the seizures, &c.—This motion was represented by Mr. Simkins and by Mr. Edwards, who seconded the motion, as the only means of executing the laws against the slave-trade, as experience had fully demonstrated, since the origin of the prohibition. Mr. H. Nelson protested against the introduction of a provision into our laws, which he declared to be inconsistent with the principles of our government, and calculated to throw as wide open the door to the importation of slaves, as it was before the existing prohibition.—Further debate took place on the amendment, which was advocated by Mr. Pindall, on the ground of the absolute necessity of such a provision to make the laws efficient against the slave trade, &c.

The amendment was finally rejected by a large majority; and the bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading. The engrossed bill to increase the duties on iron, nails, allum, &c. and to disallow the drawback on Gunpowder; and to increase the duty on the importation of certain manufactured articles was read a third time, passed 58 to 47 and sent to the Senate for concurrence.

The amendment of the Senate to the bill fixing the third instead of the first Monday in November as the day for the next meeting of Congress, was taken up, and, after an ineffectual motion by

Mr. Burwell, to lay the bill on the table, the amendment was agreed to.

The House then resolved itself into a committee of the whole, on the bill to continue in force, from and after the 30th of June, 1819, until the 30th of June, 1826, the 4th paragraph of the first section of the act "to regulate the duties on imports and tonnage." The paragraph referred to is that which establishes the duty on the importation of foreign manufactures, of which the principal material is wool or cotton, &c.

Mr. Edwards moved, on the ground that there was no necessity for acting on the subject at the present time, and, being no necessity for it, there remained too little time for a proper investigation of the subject, that the first section of the bill be struck out.

This motion gave rise to a short but spirited debate, in the course of which Messrs. Tucker, Edwards, Mercer, and Rhea, supported the motion, as well on the ground of hostility to the excessive taxation of agriculture, for the benefit of the manufacturing interest, as of the want of time for a full discussion, &c. and Messrs. Seybert, Clay, Mason of Mass. Baldwin, Kinsey, Lowndes, and Southard opposed it, on both the grounds assumed.

The question having been taken on striking out the first section, it was decided in the negative—ayes 33.

The committee then proceeded further in amending the bill; in which Messrs. Sillsbee, Lowndes, and Pitkin took part.

Mr. Mercer proposed an amendment, the object of which was, that the duty of 25 per cent. should be imposed, not on a fixed value of 25 cents per yard, but upon an actual valuation, as in the case of other ad valorem duties—negatived.

Mr. Colston made a motion to amend the bill, the object of which was to limit the extension of the present duties to two years, instead of seven, as provided by the bill; and this motion was negatived 108 to 34.

Mr. Smith, of North-Carolina, moved an amendment to the bill to this effect: that, after the 30th June next, the duty of 20 cents per bushel on salt imported, should cease, and a duty of 10 cents thereon be substituted in lieu thereof.

On suggestion of Mr. Mercer, Mr. S. consented to modify his motion, so as to propose 12½ cents instead of 10 cents, as the future duty on salt.

Mr. Cobb advocated the motion at some length, and Mr. Lowndes opposed it, after which, the question was taken on the motion, by yeas and nays, & negatived—yeas 53, nays 92.

The bill was then ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, by yeas and nays—106 to 34; and the House adjourned.

THURSDAY, APRIL 16.

Mr. T. M. Nelson reported a bill to authorize the recovery of public money. [Providing that suit may be commenced to coerce a settlement of open accounts of persons who receive and expend the public moneys]. This bill was twice read.

Mr. T. M. Nelson moved that it be read a third time. Referring to a statement, yesterday laid on the tables of the House, of the names of those paymasters of the late army of the U. States who have failed duly to account for the monies confided to their charge. Mr. N. said, there was, it appeared, an unliquidated debt, apparently due, from persons of that description alone, to the amount of three millions of dollars. Upon conversation with accounting officers of the Treasury, he found that they did not consider themselves authorized to bring suit against any delinquent until his accounts were liquidated, and the balance ascertained. This settlement, of course, was delayed by the defaulter; and the object of the bill was to enable the accounting officers to coerce the persons so situated to come to a settlement.

After some conversation, in which Mr. Lowndes expressed his surprize at the construction which it appeared had been given to the existing law; Mr. Burwell congratulated the House on the introduction of this bill, so necessary to the security of public money, to the protection of honest claimants, and the detection of fraudulent transactions; and Mr. T. M. Nelson re-affirmed what he had already said, adding, that, as the government preserved a coercive power over the paymasters while in office, instances had frequently occurred in which, under the present laws, it was found necessary to keep paymasters in office, without any duty to perform, merely to obtain a settlement of their accounts.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

Mr. H. Nelson, from the committee on the Judiciary having reported, without amendment, the bill from the Senate to authorize the Bank of the United States to appoint a Vice-President, &c.

A motion was made by Mr. Moor to strike out the first section of the bill.

Whereupon, Mr. Poindexter moved to postpone the bill indefinitely.

This motion gave rise to an animated debate of two or three hours, and finally succeeded 85 to 50.

The bill from the Senate in addition to the act to prohibit the introduction of slaves into the United States, was read a third time and passed.

The engrossed bill, to continue in force from June 1819 to June 1826, the clause of the act of 1816, laying duties on imported cottons, woollens, &c. was read the third time, passed, and sent to the Senate for concurrence.

The House then resolved itself into a committee of the whole, on the gen. invalid pensioner's bill.

This bill, as usual, occupied the committee some hours, and produced considerable discussion, arising on motions by different gentlemen, to insert in this bill the names of various invalid soldiers, either not previously sent to the committee on pensions, or reported on unfavorably by that committee. These cases rarely involve any new principles, and are too confined in their interest to require particular notice.

The only motion which varied materially from the general character, on this subject, was one made by Mr. Clay, to insert the name of Charles Earnest, an orphan boy, in the bill as a pensioner.—The facts in this case as stated by Mr. Clay were, that the father of this boy, Charles Earnest, received a wound at Bladensburg which caused his death, leaving his infant son destitute and unprotected, and the more forlorn, as he is both deaf and dumb. To defray the expenses of educating this unfortunate child at the Asylum of the deaf and dumb, in Connecticut, Mr. Clay moved to authorize the sum of \$250 a year, to be expended under the direction of the Secretary of War; and followed his motion by a short, but touching appeal to the generous and patriotic feelings of the House.

The motion was carried without opposition, and almost without a dissenting voice.

The committee reported the bill with some amendments to the House, and the House adjourned.

FRIDAY, APRIL 17.

On motion of Mr. Pleasants, the Secretary of the Navy was directed to lay before the House at next session a statement of all the Marine Hospitals in the Union.

Mr. Trimble submitted a proposition instructing the Secretary of War to report to next session whether any, and what reduction could be made in the Military Peace Establishment, which, after some debate, was agreed to.

Much other business was done, which we have not an opportunity of recording, as the House had a recess for an hour and a half at sun set, and sat late in the night, on the post road and other bills.

FOREIGN NEWS.

LATEST FROM ENGLAND

New-York, April 3.

A pilot boat came up from below early this morning, and brought the editors of the Mercantile Advertiser a file of London papers to the 1st March, &c.

The ports of Great Britain were opened on the 21st February, for the admission for home consumption of all foreign grain, pulse or flour, (except rye, rye flour, beans and peas) for the following quarter, terminating on the 15th of May next. The aggregate average of wheat on the 21st February, was 86s. 4d.

At the Prince Regent's levee, on the 12th February, Mr. Rush, envoy extraordinary from the United States, was presented by lord Castlereagh, as foreign secretary. The secretary, and under secretary, Mr. Adams Smith, and Mr. Tayloe, were likewise presented.

The Queen's birth-day was celebrated at her palace on the 26th February, and her drawing room was numerously attended. Among the presentations to her majesty, were Mr. Rush, the envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary from the U. States of America, accompanied by his lady, who was presented to the queen by Viscountess Castlereagh. Mr. Rush was accompanied by Mr. A. Smith, secretary of legation of the United States and Mr. Tayloe, attached to the legation, who were presented to her majesty by Mr. Rush.

Sir Richard Croft, the celebrated accoucheur of the Princess Charlotte, put a period to his existence on the 13th February by shooting himself.

A London paper of the 23rd of February states, that the ex-emperor Napoleon is very ill of a liver complaint.

Death of the King of Sweden.—The London Globe of February 19th, says, a Hamburg mail to February 14, has

just arrived bringing intelligence of the death of the king of Sweden. Charles the 13th. He died on the 6th of February at Stockholm.

LATEST FROM THE ARMY.

Augusta, April 3.

We received intelligence from the Army by last evening's mail, as late as the 24th ultimo. Jackson, Gaines and Glasscock left Fort Scott on the 11th, in order to meet some provisions that were on the way from New-Orleans, and on the 14th met a supply sufficient, with which they immediately proceeded on to the Mickasukee Town; the forces consisting of about 500 regulars, 1000 militia, and several commands of Indians, amounting in the aggregate to about 1800.

On the 26th, McIntosh's command of 776 Indians, left Fort Scott to join Jackson, which it was supposed would be effected on the 28th, previous to the contemplated attack on the Mickasukees. We may shortly expect to hear of some decisive blow being struck in that quarter.

By the President of the United States.

WHEREAS, by an act of Congress, passed on the 26th of March, 1804, entitled, "An Act making provision for the disposal of the public lands in the Indiana Territory, and for other purposes," and an Act passed the 3d of March 1805, entitled, "An Act supplementary to the act, entitled, an act making provision for the disposal of the public lands in the Indiana Territory," and an act passed on the 25th of April, 1808, entitled, "An Act supplemental to an act regulating the grants of lands in the Territory of Michigan," the President of the United States is authorized to cause the lands in the land district of Detroit to be offered for sale when surveyed; and whereas a part of the said lands have been surveyed;

Therefore, I, JAMES MONROE, President of the United States, in conformity with the said acts, do hereby declare and make known, that public sales for the disposal (agreeably to law) of the said lands, shall be held at Detroit, in Michigan Territory, viz:

On the first Monday in July next, for the lands contained in ranges 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13, south of the base line; on the first Monday of September next for the lands contained in ranges 13, 14, 15, 16 & 17, north of the base line; and on the first Monday in November next, for the lands contained in ranges 9, 10, 11, and 12 north of the base line, excepting such lands as are, or may be reserved in said district, by law, for the support of Schools, and for other purposes. The sales shall continue open for two weeks and no longer, and shall commence with the first section of the lowest number of townships and ranges, and proceed in regular numerical order.

Given under my hand at the City of Washington, the thirty-first day of March, one thousand eight hundred and eighteen.

JAMES MONROE.

By the President, JOSIAH MEIGS, Comm'r of the General Land Office.

By the President of the United States.

WHEREAS by an act of Congress, passed on the 3d March, 1815, entitled "An act to provide for the ascertaining and surveying of the boundary lines fixed by the treaty with the Creek Indians & for other purposes," the President of the United States is authorized to cause the lands acquired by the said treaty to be offered for sale when surveyed; and whereas part of the said lands have been surveyed;

Therefore, I, James Monroe, President of the United States, do hereby declare and make known, that the public sales for the disposal of certain lands south of the Tennessee river and in the district of Madison county, shall be held at Huntsville in said county, in Alabama Territory, viz:

On the first Monday in July next, for the sale of the lands in ranges 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. On the first Monday in September next for the lands in ranges 6, 7, 8, 9 & on the first Monday in November next for the lands in ranges 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, excepting such lands as are or shall be reserved according to law, for the support of schools and for other purposes. Each sale shall continue open for two weeks and no longer, shall commence with the section, township and range of the lowest number, and proceed in regular numerical order.

Given under my hand, at the city of Washington, this 31st day of March, 1818.

JAMES MONROE.

By the President, JOSIAH MEIGS, Comm'r. of the General Land Office.

Copperplate Maps of the above lands may be had at the office of the Surveyor General, at Huntsville, or at the General Land Office.

WINDSOR CHAIR-MAKING BUSINESS.

THE subscribers beg leave to inform the Public, that they have taken a Shop in Newbern street, opposite the State Bank, where they will carry on the business of Windsor Chair-making, Turning, and Staining.

A specimen of their work can be seen at their Shop, where it is hoped those who want to purchase, will favor them with a call.

The above Business commenced under the 1st inst. and will in future be carried on under the Firm of MATTHEWS, RUTHERFORD, & Co. Raleigh, April 7. 68 39