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CONGRESS. IN SENATE.

Monday, October 9, 1837.

On motion of Mr. Grundy, the Senate proceeded to consider the joint resolution, authorizing and directing the Postmaster General to receive in advance the postage on letters sent by the Express Mail.

The resolution being under consideration, in Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Grundy made a short explanation, stating that persons were not, in many instances, conversant with the expense of sending letters by the Express Mail, and ignorantly put their letters into the office to go with that mail, without being aware that they are chargeable with triple postage. Mischievous people also used this mail for the purpose of annoyance. The requisition of the postage in advance would correct these evils.

After a few remarks from Mr. Knight, and Mr. Grundy (in reply) the resolution was ordered to a third reading.

ATTORNEYS' FEES.

The Senate proceeded to consider the bill to limit the fees to be received by the District Attorneys for the extension of merchants' bonds.

The question being on the amendment of Mr. Clayton.

Mr. Tallmadge moved to amend by providing against any suit being commenced within a specified time, which was accepted by Mr. Clayton as a modification.

The question then recurred on the amendment proposed by Mr. Buchanan, graduating the fees, according to the amount of the bond, and it was agreed to.

The question then recurred on the amendment of Mr. Clay, authorizing the Collector to extend the bonds.

Mr. Clay advocated his proposition briefly, stating that he was mistaken when he had said the Collector received 60 cents on a bond; he had since understood that the charge was only 40 cents.

Mr. Buchanan thought the three-fourths of the Attorneys had received no fees, and that five dollars on a bond of more than 500 dollars, and two dollars on bonds under that amount was a fair compensation.

Mr. Webster regarded the service as one not professional in its character, but properly belonged to the Collector. The reason for handing over the bonds to the Attorney was for the purpose of commencing suit. The service was exclusively clerical, and might be done in the Custom House.

The amendment, was advocated by Mr. Tallmadge, Mr. Calhoun, Mr. Crittenden, and opposed by Mr. Grundy and Mr. Wright, and the question being taken by yeas and nays, it was decided in the affirmative. Yeas 22—Nays 18.

Mr. Buchanan moved to recommit the bill, with instructions to report a reasonable compensation to district attorneys for such services as have already been performed, and asked the yeas and nays. The question was then taken and decided in the negative. Yeas 15, nays 26.

The amendments were concurred in, and the bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time.

The joint resolution relating to the payment in advance of letters sent by the express mail, was read a third time and passed.

A bill from the House to continue in force such laws as may expire before the next session of Congress, was read a first and second time, and ordered to be read a third time. The bill was then read a third time and passed.

WAREHOUSE SYSTEM.

The Senate was moved by Mr. Wright to take up the bill to authorize the deposit of merchandise in the public stores in certain cases.

Mr. King, of Alabama, objected to take up the bill because of impossibility of passing it through the other House.

Mr. Calhoun coincided in this view. After a few words from Mr. Wright, the question was agreed to. Ayes 20, noes 7.

On motion of Mr. Buchanan the bill was amended so as to exempt from its operation iron imported for railroads.

Mr. Clay said he had been disposed to

go in favor of the abolition of credits, but he was met by the compromise act, which provides that the credit of the system shall not be abolished until the 30th of June, 1842.

Mr. Calhoun acquiesced in this view, and moved to postpone the bill till the first Monday in December.

Mr. Wright intended that the bill should give longer credits, under certain conditions, and this question could not be separated from the warehousing clauses of the bill.

Mr. Clay made some remarks in reply, contending that in any view, the bill was a violation of the compromise act, which intended to keep the credits as they were, and any alteration would be a violation of the act.

Mr. Calhoun withdrew his motion, and on motion of Mr. Wright the further consideration of the bill was postponed till to-morrow.

On motion of Mr. Webster the Senate proceeded to the consideration of Executive business, and the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

TREASURY NOTES.

The House resumed the consideration of the bill to authorize the issue of Treasury notes.

The question being on the following amendment, moved on Thursday by Mr. Underwood, viz.

That the Secretary of the Treasury be authorized to sell and transfer to the purchasers the bonds or evidences of debt executed by the President, Directors, and Company of the Bank of the United States of Pennsylvania, for and in consideration of the stock held by the United States in the late Bank of the United States, and to apply the money arising from such sale and transfer, in payment of any demands upon the Treasury: *Provided, however,* That no sale and transfer of said bonds or evidences of debt shall be made for a less sum than the nominal amount of said bonds or evidence of debt, exclusive of interest.

The debate was continued. Mr. Cambreleng said that the effect of the amendment would be to place the Government in the absolute power of the Bank of the United States.

Mr. Hopkins, of Virginia, said he could not conceive how.

Mr. Cambreleng said that the bank by its agent, would bid in these bonds; there would be no other bidder, unless it were some foreign capitalist.

Mr. Hopkins then addressed the House at length, and with much animation, in favor of the amendment, and in opposition to the original bill, as going to establish an Executive currency. The fears of the gentlemen from New York were idle; as neither the bank nor foreign capitalists could get these bonds till we got the gold and silver.

Mr. Wise complimented Mr. H. as a genuine, independent Conservative, and quoted the recommendation of Gen. Jackson to sell the stock of the Bank of the United States. Gentlemen, however, were still for holding on to a connection with the monster.

Mr. Underwood spoke for some time in vindication of his own course, and in reply to some objections which had been thrown out against it.

Mr. Haynes replied to Mr. Wise, that the sale of the bank stock severed all connection of the Government with the bank as a partnership concern; but that was no reason Government ought not still to hold the bonds of that institution taken in payment for the stock.

Mr. Wise said that these bonds were a mere liquidation of the account of value of the stock; and, while the Government held them, the connection still continued as though it held the stock.

Mr. McKay would have no objection to the sale of these bonds, if it could be done fairly, for their full value; but this would take time, and the Treasury must have immediate relief. He denied that the bill was deceptive; every man, on reading it, must perceive it was a bill for a loan; what else was it?

Mr. Robertson addressed the House at large, in opposition to the bill; inveighing against the policy of a Government bank, and insisting that the measures was unnecessary as it would be pernicious and dangerous.

Mr. Legare, of South Carolina, followed in reply, denying that these Treasury notes were strictly bills of credit, and insisting on the right of Government to issue them as evidences of debt, if for bona fide federal purposes, but not otherwise. He was in favor of making them without interest, and contended that, as a currency, they would be better than gold and silver.

Mr. Patton next took the floor, in reply to remarks which had fallen from Mr. Cambreleng questioning his capacity to comprehend the operation of the amendment, which he retorted with some warmth, and then went into an argumentative speech in favor of the amendment, and against the bill.

Mr. Cushing, of Massachusetts, follow-

ed, in reply to Mr. Legare. He quoted Judges Story, Marshall, and other authorities, to show that Treasury notes were bills of credit.

Mr. Foster, of N. Y., replied, arguing that Treasury notes, to become bills of credit, must be issued as a circulating medium. He denied that a high or low rate of interest altered the case. He argued at length against the amendment.

Mr. Menifee, of Kentucky, addressed the House at large, in an eloquent and earnest speech, against the bill.

[The debate was able and interesting; and the speeches will be given at large as soon as they can be prepared.]

Mr. Cushman, of N. H., terminated the discussion by calling for the previous question.

The Chair stated that if it should prevail, the main question would be on the House bill as at first reported from the Committee of Ways and Means. [Cutting off, of course, Mr. Cambreleng's amendment, which engrafted the Senate's bill on the enacting clause of the House bill.]

On the question of sustaining the call for the previous question there was a tie, the yeas being 88, and the noes 88. The Chair voting in the negative it was not sustained.

Mr. Cambreleng now pressed for action on the bill, and referred to pledges given by gentlemen of the opposition that a vote should be had this night.

Mr. Wise replied, admitting that he had given such a pledge, but for himself only. He did not undertake to command the House, or speak for it as at his bidding.

Mr. W. Cost Johnson obtained the floor, and addressed the House in a speech of great animation till late in the evening.

Mr. Phillips read to the House, from a document recently received, and not yet generally distributed, in reply to a call for the correspondence of the Treasury with various individuals, touching the terms of their reception of Treasury notes for specie; and in which many commercial capitalists declined altogether having anything to do with such a transaction.

The question was at length obtained on the amendment moved by Mr. Underwood, and decided as follows:

Yeas—Messrs. Adams, Alexander, H. Allen, John W. Allen, Ayerigg, Bell, Biddle, Bond, Boulden, Briggs, W. B. Calhoun, John Calhoun, Wm. B. Campbell, J. Campbell, Wm. B. Carter, Chambers, Cheatham, Childs, Clowney, Corwin, Cranston, Brockett, Curtis, Cushing, Darlington, Dawson, Davies, Dennis, Dunn, Elmore, Everett, Ewing, Rich, Fletcher, Filmore, R. Garland, Goode, James Graham, Wm. Graham, Graves, Grennell, Griffin, Halstead, Harlan, Harper, Hastings, Hawes, Henry, Herod, Hoffman, Hopkins, R. M. T. Hunter, Jenifer, Henry Johnson, Wm. C. Johnson, Lawler, Lincoln, A. W. Loomis, Mallory, Marvin, Samson, Mason, Maury, Maxwell, McKennan, Menifee, Mercer, Milligan, C. Morris, Naylor, Noyes, Ogle, Patterson, Peck, Phillips, Pope, Potts, Rairden, Reed, Rencher, Ridgway, Robertson, Rumsay, Russell, Sawyer, A. H. Shepperd, C. Shepard, Sibley, Slade, Southgate, Stanley, Stratton, Taliaferro, Thompson, Tillinghast, Underwood, A. S. White, John White, Elisha Whittlesey, Lewis Williams, Sherrod Williams, Joseph L. Williams, Christopher H. Williams, Wise, Yorke—104.

Nays—Messrs. Anderson, Andrews, Atherton, Beatty, Beirne, Birdsall, Boon, Brodhead, Bronson, Bruyn, Buchanan, Cambreleng, Timothy J. Carter, Casey, Chaney, Chapman, Cilley, Claiborne, Clark, Cleveland, Coles, Connor, Cray, Cushman, Davee, DeGraff, Dromgoole, Duncan, Edwards, Farrington, Fairfield, Foster, Fry, Gallup, Gholson, Glascock, Grantland, Grant, Gray, Haley, Hammond, Harrison, Hawkins, Haynes, Holsey, Holt, Howard, Hubley, Ingham, T. B. Jackson, Jabez Jackson, N. Jones, J. W. Jones, Kemble, Kilmore, Klingensmith, Legare, Leadbetter, Lewis, Logan, Arphaxed, Loomis, Lyon, J. M. Mason, Martin, McKay, Robert McClellan, Abraham McClellan, McClure, McKim, Miller, Montgomery, Morgan, S. W. Morris, Muhlenberg, Murray, Noble, Owens, Palmer, Parker, Parmenter, Paynter, Pennybacker, Perikien, Phelps, Plumer, Potter, Pratt, Prentiss, Reily, Rhett, Richardson, Rives, Sheffer, Shepler, Snyder, Spencer, Stewart, Taylor, Thomas, Titus, Toney, Towns, Turney, Vanderveer, Wagener, Webster, Weeks, Thomas T. Whittlesey, Jared W. Williams, Worthington, Yell—112.

So the amendment moved by Mr. Underwood was negatived.

Mr. Rhett then moved an amendment, the effect of which would be, if agreed to, to make the bills payable upon presentation, after the expiration of one year from date, and to divest them of the character of interest-bearing notes.

The House then, on motion of Mr. Williams, of North Carolina, at about half past nine adjourned.

[Mr. Stone, a member elect from Tennessee, in place of Mr. Standefer, deceased,

appeared in the course of the evening, was sworn, and took his seat.]

Saturday, October 7.

The Senate did not sit to-day.

In the House of Representatives As soon as the Journal was read, Mr. J. Q. Adams rose and asked leave to make an explanation; and, by general consent was allowed to do so.

It would be recollected (he said) that he had, on the preceding day, referred to the fate of propositions made at former sessions, to investigate alleged abuses in our Indian affairs, out of which the Creek and Seminole wars had grown. With respect to one of these propositions, by the gentleman from Alabama, he had stated that, after that gentleman had moved to refer the inquiry to a select committee, a motion was made to refer it to the President of the United States, which motion prevailed; and he had then inquired whether any report or message, in consequence of that reference, had been sent by the President of the United States to this House.—This question (Mr. A. said) he had asked, because he was ignorant whether such a report or message had been sent or not. He did not assert that such a report had not been made, but he had asked for information. To this inquiry he had received no answer: from which he inferred that no communication had been made to the House by the President upon the subject. Afterward, however, he had been informed that a message had been sent to the House on the subject just before the close of the last session of Congress, and had been laid on the table and ordered to be printed. Not having been printed before the close of the session, it had not come to his knowledge. It was printed afterwards, and constituted No. 154 of the Executive Documents. Since the adjournment last evening, he had seen it, and had read as much of it as was possible for him to read between 10 o'clock last night and the meeting of the House this morning; and he must say, that a more heart-sickening document he had never read. It goes (said he) to prove demonstration, if demonstration be required, the necessity of full investigation into these abuses, by the order of Congress. There were disclosures enough, even in this document, to make the blood tingle in the veins of every man who read it.

Mr. A. said he had thought proper to make this explanation, because he was not willing that an impression should go abroad, from his statement that the Executive had not done his duty in reference to the vote of this House upon the subject.—The Executive had acted upon the subject, it appeared, promptly; had appointed two citizens, Mr. Crawford and Mr. Balch, commissioners for the purpose, and authorized them to make the required investigations. These commissioners, acting under instructions from the Executive, had collected a vast deal of information, contained in their report, which was, however, only a report in part, much remaining yet to be dissolved. As far as he could judge, the trust reposed by the resolution of this House had been faithfully performed, as well by the Executive as by the individuals who acted as commissioners by his appointment.

In justice to himself, as well as to the Executive of the United States, Mr. A. said he made this explanation.

Mr. Harrison, of Missouri, offered a resolution which, at the suggestion of Mr. Howard, he afterwards modified so as read as follows:

Resolved, That the President of the United States be requested to communicate to this House at its next session, so far as in his judgment is consistent with the public interest, whether any foreign Power, or the subject of any foreign power, have possession of any part of the United States on the Columbia river, or are in the occupancy of the same, and, if so, in what way, by what authority, and how long such possession or occupancy has been kept up by such persons.

The resolution was agreed to but not until a call of the House had produced a quorum.

Mr. Halstead, of New Jersey, offered the following resolution which was adopted, viz:

Resolved, That the Secretary of War be directed to inform this House, at its next session, who was superintendent of the work for the improvement of Little Egg Harbor, and whether it was executed according to the plan reported to the War Department, as required by the law making the appropriation, and, if not, on what authority was another plan substituted.

The Speaker laid before the House a report from the Secretary of the Treasury in obedience to a resolution of the House of the 19th ult. calling for a statement of the number of bushels of corn, wheat, rye, barley, oats, and other breadstuffs, which have been, during the last twelve years, imported from foreign countries into the ports of the United States, distinguishing the several ports.

Mr. Bond moved to suspend the Rules to enable him to offer the following resolution, which motion was disagreed to:

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Treasury be directed to inform this House whether he has made any contract or agreement with any person to engrave a plate on which to print Treasury notes, and, if so, then to state with whom, and when said contract or agreement was made, and whether the same has been executed on the part of the artist, and whether any notes have been printed, designed to be issued, if the bill to authorize the issuing of the Treasury notes shall become a law.

The House then proceeded to the unfinished business; which was Mr. Wise's motion for a committee of inquiry respecting the Florida war; and the question being on Mr. Howard's amendment to refer the inquiry to the Committee on Military Affairs—

Mr. McKay addressed the House for some time in reply to Mr. Adams' remarks of yesterday.

Mr. Cambreleng called for the orders of the day, and the House resumed the consideration of the bill authorizing the

ISSUE OF TREASURY NOTES.

The question being on an amendment to the amendment proposed by Mr. Rhett—

Mr. Rhett modified his amendment so as to declare that the faith of the United States was pledged for the payment of the notes, on presentation, at six months after their dates, respectively.

Mr. Bell moved to strike out the enacting clause of the bill, and spoke at great length in support of the motion.

He was followed by Mr. Bronson in support of the bill.

Mr. Halstead, of New Jersey, had proceeded but a little time in reply to Mr. Bronson, when the hour arrived for the recess.

EVENING SITTING.

The Treasury Note Bills still before the House, the depending question being at last stated—

Mr. Halstead closed his remarks, in opposition to the bill.

Mr. Whittlesey, of Ohio, suggested that the question be taken on each amendment successively, and asked Mr. Bell to withdraw his motion to strike out the enacting clause for that purpose.

Mr. Bell withdrew his motion for a time.

After some remarks from Messrs. Rhett, Rives, and Calhoun, of Kentucky.

Mr. Rhett's amendment was then rejected by the following votes: Yeas 61, nays 137.

Mr. Wise moved sundry amendments to the bill, which he explained and sustained at length. He proposed to strike out the words "as the Secretary may deem expedient," and to insert instead thereof the words, "as the exigencies of the country may require," in reference to the amount of Treasury notes to be issued. He was also opposed to the issue of the proposed notes with interest. He was of opinion that there was no necessity to issue them at all.

Mr. Wise's first amendment, to strike out and insert as above, was agreed to, and his other amendment was rejected.

Mr. Rhett moved to reconsider the vote of the day before, whereby the amendment of Mr. Underwood, proposing to authorize the sale of the bonds due to the Government from the Bank of the United States, for the supply of the deficiency in the Treasury, as a substitute for the issue of Treasury notes, had been rejected; the mover at the same time giving notice that, if that motion prevailed, he should move for the issue of four and a half millions of Treasury notes, in addition, to make up the amount required for the wants of the Treasury.

An unsuccessful motion was then made to adjourn.

Mr. Cambreleng asked for the yeas and nays on the question of reconsideration.

The question upon reconsideration of the vote on Mr. Underwood's motion to amend the bill, was then decided as follows:

Yeas—Messrs. Adams, Alexander, H. Allen, J. W. Allen, Ayerigg, Bell, Biddle, Bond, Boulden, Briggs, Wm. B. Calhoun, John Calhoun, W. B. Campbell, J. Campbell, Wm. B. Carter, Chambers, Cheatham, Clowney, Corwin, Cranston, Crockett, Curtis, Cushing, Darlington, Dawson, Davies, DeBerry, Dennis, Dunn, Elmore, Everett, Ewing, R. Fletcher, Filmore, James Garland, Rice Garland, Goode, J. Graham, William Graham, Graves, Grennell, Griffin, Halstead, Harlan, Harper, Hastings, Hawes, Henry, Herod, Hoffman, Hopkins, Robert M. T. Hunter, Jenifer, Henry Johnson, W. C. Johnson, Legare, Lewis, Lincoln, A. W. Loomis, Maury, Marvin, J. M. Mason, Maury, McKennan, Menifee, Mercer, Milligan, C. Morris, Naylor, Noyes, Ogle, Patterson, Patton, Pearce, Peck, Phillips, Pope, Potts, Rairden, Reed, Rencher, Rhett, Richardson, Ridgway, Robertson, Rumsay, Russell, Sawyer, Sergeant, A. H. Sheppard, Sibley, Slade, Southgate, Stanley, Stone, Stratton, Taliaferro, Thompson, Underwood, Webster, A. S. White, J. White, E. Whittlesey, L. Williams, Sherrod Williams, J. L. Williams, C. H. Williams, Wise, Yorke—110.