New-York Daily Tribune.

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THIRTY-NINTH CONGRESS

The Negro Suffrage Bill Passed the House.

NO QUALIFICATIONS INSERTED.

Appointment of Provisional Governors

Speeches by Messrs. Nesmith and Wade.

Mrs. Lincoln Granted the Franking Privilege.

Damage to Property by the Union Army.

American Vessels Under Foreign Registers.

SENATE....WASHINGTON, Jan. 18, 1866.

PARIS EXPOSITION.

Mr. MORGAN presented the resolutions of the New-York Chamber of Commerce recommending that Congress take such action in relation to the Paris Exposition in April, 1867, as will give the United States a favorable opportunity for competition with other nations at that Exhibition. They were referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

WRITINGS OF PRESIDENT MADISON.

Mr. HOWE, from the Committee on the Library, reported a joint resolution for the distribution of the 500 copies of the writings of James Madison published by authority of Congress, among the different State Libraries, Departments, &c. It was passed.

REGISTERS OF VESSELS.

Mr. CHANDLER offered a joint resolution to authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to direct the issue of American registers to certain British-built vessels owned by American citizens, which was referred to the Committee on Commerce.

GOODS UNDER BOND.

Mr. MORGAN, from the Committee on Commerce, reported, without amendment, the House bill to extend the time for the withdrawal of goods from bonded warehouses.

TELEGRAPH BETWEEN NEW-YORK AND THE WEST INDIES.

Mr. MORGAN also reported a bill to authorize the construction of a telegraph line between New-York and the West India Islands.

FREEDMEN'S TRUST COMPANIES.

Mr. WILSON introduced a bill to amend the act of incorporation of the Freedmen's Savings and Trust Company, so as to authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to designate that institution or any of its branches as depositories of any money belonging to freedmen in the hands or under the control of any civil or military officer of the United States, and to direct such moneys to be so deposited, the Company in all things conforming to the directions of the Secretary of the Treasury. It was referred to the Committee on Finance.

VENTILATING THE SENATE CHAMBER.

Mr. BUCKALEW offered a resolution for the appointment of a committee of five to report a good method of ventilation for the Senate Chamber; which was passed over for the present.

GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING.

Mr. WILSON offered a resolution instructing the Committee on Printing to inquire into and report about the amount of money paid to the Washington papers for advertising, under what law, what amount, &c. It was adopted.

COLORADO.

Mr. WADE, from the Committee on Territories, reported the bill for the admission of Colorado. It declares that Congress ratifies and accepts the Constitution and State Government which the people of Colorado have adopted, and that that State is one of the United States of America, on an equal footing with the other States.

PROVISIONAL GOVERNORS.

The joint resolution of Mr. HOWE, for the appointment of Provisional Governors, was then taken up, and Mr. NESMITH addressed the Senate at length.

SPEECH OF MR. NESMITH.

He proceeded to examine the President's plan of reconstruction. The President had done his duty as Commander-in-Chief of the Army thoroughly and effectually. But there remained at the close of the war certain Rebel State Governments. These had now been overthrown, and not a vestige of them was left. The President had whipped them out. But other things remained to be done to stamp the Rebellion as odious. It was necessary to declare the ordinances of Secession invalid, and to repudiate the Rebel debt. These things had been done. The Rebellion put down, the Southern States presented a singular spectacle of unorganized States; an immense power fell into the hands of the President. But, in the exercise of it he had shown no disposition to usurp authority of any kind. He had used the pardoning power very judiciously in the work of reconstruction, and by this means had done much good to the cause of the Union. Mr. Nesmith denied the power of Congress or of the President to make a constitution for a State or prescribe the provisions of it; the people of the State were competent for this. He indorsed the appointment of the Provisional Government in the Southern States as the only means for settling in future the Governments whose functions had been suspended. Mr. Nesmith stated in detail the provisions of Mr. Johnson's policy of reconstruction, and said they commended themselves to the indorsement of all good citizens. He did not think any act of Congress was necessary for the admission of the Southern States, and opposed negro suffrage. This was a white man's government, instituted for white men, and designed for them and their posterity. He held that Congress had no right to meddle with the question of suffrage. The State is to prescribe the qualifications of electors in the States. The war had been fought to deny the right of Secession, and to hold that the Southern States were out of the Union was to acknowledge the fact of Secession as having been accomplished. In conclusion, Mr. Nesmith advocated a generous policy toward the Southern States.

SPEECH OF MR. WADE.

Mr. WADE said he had not intended to say anything on this great subject. He preferred to wait for the report of the Committee to whom the matter was intrusted for investigation. But as the Senator from Wisconsin had in his elaborate speech yesterday failed to touch upon some of the most important parts of the subject, he felt constrained to say something. Mr. Doolittle began by informing us of the principles that Mr. Lincoln had adopted. Well, Sir, Mr. Lincoln had entered upon a policy in regard to the admission of some of these States. During the period of the last Congress I believe that question was agitated before us, and all the arguments presented failed to convince me that the States could be admitted. The arguments entirely failed to convince me that the time had come when it was safe to admit any of these. Therefore, I contended against it; and for that, I, and those with whom I acted, are accused of being a little captious, and were said to be filibustering against the will of the majority. Now, I think Mr. Johnson has made a great improvement on this subject over his predecessor, although he has not yet touched upon the point where I think the difficulty begins. Mr. Lincoln advised us to admit Louisiana into the United States, while probably more than half her territory was trampled beneath the hostile foot of the enemy, and our flag did not cover half the territory and perhaps half of the population of the State. I did not think it would be safe to admit the State upon such terms. I had not seen anything in their conduct or proceedings to warrant me in saying that such a course would be safe. You will recollect that Mr. Lincoln did not require anything more from them than that one-tenth part of them should take a certain oath not very difficult to take. Mr. Johnson has made an improvement—a great improvement—upon this; for he does require that they shall abolish Slavery. He requires that they shall repudiate the Rebel debt. He requires that they shall renounce the right of Secession. He requires that they shall agree to the Constitutional Amendment abolishing Slavery forever. These, in my judgment, are great improvements upon the system of Mr. Lincoln. Had Mr. Lincoln himself at that time required these things, and had the States come up to it, I believe that I then would have yielded to his wishes and given him my support. But, Sir, I have never had but one polar star to my action and that I adhere to, whether I am in a majority or in a minority. I never intend to be tempted from it one single inch. I have fixed my eyes upon the great principle of eternal justice and right, and it has borne me triumphantly through all difficulties in my legislative career since I had a seat in this body. I can triumphantly say that I have stood upon this floor when I had not ten men to support me against the entire Senate and when the principle I advocated was unfortunately more unpopular than these I announce to-day. How was the whole Senate startled by the idea of universal emancipation ten, or fifteen, or even five years ago? Talk about unpopular doctrines and attempt to intimidate me by the intimation that I shall be found in a minority among the people. I know the people better, I think. I know that I tread the great pathway of rectitude and right, and I don't care who opposes me. God Almighty is my guide. He goes before me and strengthens me. He has never failed me yet, and I don't fear He will on this occasion. Now, Mr. President, I will not boast; but I, with many others on this floor, can look back to our preceding course and, on this subject, with great satisfaction. I think, Sir, that I can say with Paul, that "we have fought a good fight." We are not entirely through with it, I admit. We may have a little further to go in the same direction, but our path is fortunately easier than it has been. Yes Sir, I keep the faith, and I have no doubt in its final triumph. I never feared it, and I never had the least doubt how this whole thing would be settled, and it will all come right if we are true to our convictions. I do not fear my associates, either, in this great question; but there are things in my heart that I cannot yet see clearly. I give the President full credit for all he has done, and honor him for the manner in which he has insisted on the great guarantees I have already alluded to. He has commenced, as it were, to complete this great arch of Freedom right. He has laid the foundation deep upon the road of justice and right. He has demanded that before the law all men shall be equal. He has demanded that Slavery shall be abolished. I agree with him so far, and honor him that he stands firmly where he does. But, Sir, he has failed to put the keystone upon the arch that he has built; and if you leave it where it is, it will go to ruin. I want, when this question is once settled, to be entirely done with it. I don't want eternally to be fighting over the question of Slavery, and distinctions among the rights and privileges of the American people. Now, Sir, I say to President Johnson, to the Democratic party, and to the people of the United States, that I will never yield the controversy until all men in America shall stand upon an equal footing—equal before the law in every respect. When they will fix it so that that can be done, I will give up the controversy in which I have been engaged for so many years, and no man will rejoice more than I that I have been relieved from it. Now, Mr. President, in listening to the elaborate argument of the Senator from Wisconsin yesterday—a speech that was set forth here all prepared, written and printed, and probably submitted for the consideration of the Administration beforehand—I don't know as to that for certain, but—

Mr. DOOLITTLE—As the Senator alludes to me, I will state to him distinctly that, so far as the speech I made here yesterday was concerned, I had no consultation with the President or any member of his Cabinet about it.

Mr. WADE—Well, I only surmised that. I thought so from what I saw in the surroundings, and from what I saw in the audience that listened to it. It makes no difference, however. I suppose I must have been mistaken. But the Senator is undoubtedly the organ of the Administration on this floor.

REMARKS BY MR. DOOLITTLE.

Mr. DOOLITTLE—Will the honorable gentleman allow me to state in relation to that—that I certainly do not stand in any such relation to the Administration any more than any other Senator. There are certain points, perhaps, in which I agree with the President more than the Senator from Ohio. But I claim no more right to speak for the President than the Senator himself.

REPLY OF MR. WADE.

Mr. WADE—Well, I don't know that he does. But I know it has generally been considered that he was more familiar with the views of the President than the rest of us. I listened to his able and deliberate argument upon this subject, in which he undoubtedly put forth all the views in favor of the policy he advocated, that occurred to him, or that he could muster into the service. But his speech was more remarkable for what he did not say than for what he did say. Now, Sir, I don't remember, in the whole course of his speech, any allusion to the rights of four millions of men, whose rights are involved in this discussion—rights that the Senator admits are dearer to him than life itself. No, Sir; if it was a son of his, he would sacrifice him upon the altar before he would yield to the fact that he should not stand upon an equal footing with his neighbors upon the subject of suffrage. Yes, sir; leaving all that great speech involving this great principle as applied to 4,000,000 of his fellow-citizens, he never alluded to it. Not a word, Sir. If there were no such elements involved in this great controversy, I, like him, would find no very great difficulty about it. He cites from Mr. Lincoln's last speech—a dying declaration—in which Mr. Lincoln himself alludes to this subject, and said that that question that was so emphatic a part of his argument, in his judgment had nothing to do with it. Enough, says he, that the seceded States do not maintain such a relation to the Government that they can be admitted without Congressional aid—or words to that effect. Mr. President, I care but little what great names may say on this subject. No man honors the memory of Mr. Lincoln more than I do; but I do not invoke his opinion here. As a Senator on this floor, I look for a counsel wherever I can find it, and I would look as soon to any other source as to the President. A President is but a poor mortal like ourselves, and a Senator of the United States has no right to yield his opinion to a mere man. He is sent here for no such purpose. I like to have the aid of the Executive, and his advice as to what measures and principles he thinks ought to be adopted. No man will listen to him with a more willing ear than I will; but, unless his advice square with my idea of duty, I will disagree with him as soon as with any other man. And the great question yet devolves upon us to settle. It is one we cannot shrink from. It is for Congress, and for nobody else, to settle. If we settle it wrong, we cannot justify ourselves by saying that we took the advice of the President of the United States—of Mr. Lincoln. His counsel will be no justification to us if we make a mistake upon this great and perilous question that is looming up before us. I say to Senators: Look to yourselves; take counsel of your own judgments and your own consciences, and do your duty to your country, and to God. Because, if there ever was a question in Congress before that was peculiarly our own, it is this. Where in the Constitution do you find that the President is authorized to invoke or bring in the States of this Union? and who but we, the representatives of the people of the United States, are sent here to do this? We, under the Constitution of the United States, are the people, and the only tribunal that can settle the great question of the admission of a State. We are the only men who ought, in a free Government, to declare upon what principle any State outside of the Government shall be admitted to it. I do not care, for that purpose, whether it is a Territory of the United States, or whether it is a State that has forfeited all right and all ability to act for itself. It does not belong to the President of the United States, and if it did, then the free Government of which we boast so much would be the most concentrated despotism of the earth. Now, Mr. President, on the subject that the Senator did n't touch, I have already said here are 4,000,000 of people estranged from this Government, to be made serfs forever, notwithstanding your declarations of freedom, until you can find some way where this right can be guaranteed. Mr. President, I was one of those who was an early advocate of bringing those colored people into your army, invoking their aid to put down the Rebellion. Over and over did I urge it upon the Executive two years before it took effect. I feel, sir, that according to the power with which I was invested I did as much as lay in my power to bring the Executive and Congress up to the work of invoking and bringing to the aid of the Union those colored people, both in the army and navy, and everywhere else they have assisted. Their employment in that capacity enforces upon me a duty. Would I lend my voice and my vote to induce that people to jeopard their lives in defense of their country, and then turn them over to the mercy of their enemies? Sir, the man that would do it deliberately and knowingly is the meanest of God's creatures. Tempt them into the service, let them fight through the war and then desert them to their enemies to be destroyed! The Senator from Wisconsin did not allude to this at all. His whole sympathy was with the Rebels—the men who endeavored to destroy the Constitution—the men who have buried three or four hundred thousand of our bravest sons. They were the men who had his sympathy; but the brave colored-men, weak and uninfluential, yet who gave you the strongest aid, without which you could never have got through the war—they have no part of your sympathy.

Mr. WADE then discussed the temper and disposition of the people of the South, which he said was disloyal and full of hate against the Union. He would keep the States of the South out of the Union until they gave the right of suffrage to the negro by legislation or by Constitutional Amendment.

Mr. SUMNER—By legislation?

"Certainly," Mr. WADE said. He would do it on the same principle that the President and that certain Senators did a great many other things. Just as the President compelled them to adopt the Constitutional Amendment and repudiate the Rebel debt. There was as much right to do one as the other. Mr. Wade then referred to the manner in which the Constitutional Amendment and other propositions of the President, which had been adopted by the South. Just as the Conventions were about to adjourn they received a dispatch from the President telling them that unless they did a certain thing they would not be readmitted to the Union. They acquiesced, of course, but it was under duress, and he could not blame them if they repudiated everything of the kind when the military power was withdrawn.

THE FREEDMEN'S BUREAU.

At the conclusion of Mr. Wade's remarks, Mr. TRUMBULL (Ill.) called up the bill to enlarge the powers of the Freedmen's Bureau, and offered an amendment to it, limiting the possessory titles to lands given to negroes under Gen. Sherman's order to three years, instead of forever, as in the original bill.

MR. STEWART HAS THE FLOOR.

Mr. STEWART (Nevada) took the floor in reply to Mr. Wade.

MRS. LINCOLN IS GIVEN THE FRANKING PRIVILEGE.

Pending the discussion on the bill under consideration, Mr. SUMNER offered a bill giving the franking privilege to Mrs. Mary Lincoln, widow of the late President, during the period of her natural life. He explained that the bill was similar to the bill passed in the case of the widow of John Quincy Adams. The bill was read three times, and passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT.

The Senate at 3¾ went into Executive session, and soon after adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

LANDS FOR AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES.

Mr. BIDWELL, from the Committee on Agriculture, reported back the bill amendatory of the act of 1862, granting lands to the several States and Territories for the establishment of Colleges of Agriculture and the Mechanic arts. It extends the time within which States may accept the provisions of the act, and provides for their extension to the States lately in Rebellion, on the express condition that no person shall be excluded on account of race or color from the school or educational fund arising from the lands thus granted.

Mr. STEVENS said the bill contained important provisions, and, therefore, should not be hastily passed.

Mr. BIDWELL, accepting the suggestion, moved, and the House agreed to, postpone the consideration of the bill until this day, one week hence.

PILOTS IN GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

Mr. DARLING, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, made an adverse report on the resolution that all pilots engaged in the Government service during the war shall be classed as officers.

BANKRUPT BILL.

Mr. JENCKES, from the Committee on the Judiciary, reported back the bill heretofore referred to, with amendments, providing for a uniform system of bankruptcy throughout the United States. The bill was made the special order for the 30th inst.

FREEDMEN'S BUREAU.

Mr. ELIOT, from the Select Committee on the subject, reported a bill amendatory of the act establishing the Freedmen's Bureau, which was made the special order for Tuesday next.

DAMAGE TO PROPERTY BY THE UNION ARMY.

Mr. DELANO, from the Committee on Claims, asked to be relieved from the examination of all claims referred to the Committee from any of the States lately in Rebellion growing out of destruction and damage or appropriation of property by the army or navy while engaged in the suppression of the Rebellion.

The report in connection with this subject was read, in which the members of the Committee say they are impressed with the necessity of establishing a rule which should guide them in deliberating on this class of claims. The number of cases is so great that they could not examine the particulars of each with such care as would prevent frauds, even provided there were sufficient grounds to demand the favorable attention of Congress. The persistence of the enemy made the destruction of property and the appropriation of supplies necessary. The destruction of, and damage to, property, were military necessities to put down the Rebellion, to save the life of the nation. The Committee were not able to state the amount of property destroyed, but it was suggested that any attempt to indemnify the numerous class of claimants would require more money than the revenue of the nation could at any time satisfy. It therefore seemed to the Committee that the House should determine whether such claims should be assumed and the national debt be enlarged to an infinite extent. It was creditable to human nature that we listen to appeals of benevolence, but such appeals should not induce us to levy extraordinary taxes on our citizens to justify our feelings of charity; we have no right to gratify such feelings when there is no rule which requires it. These views, however, should not exclude loyal citizens from indemnity for damages clearly ascertained, but it was impossible to compensate all who sustained individual loss in the field. It would embarrass confidence in the public security everywhere, and by an increase of taxation would give occasion for discontent and complaint, and might induce evil-minded persons to advocate the policy of repudiation. Claims of loyal citizens for property taken or supplies appropriated shall be distinctly considered from the ravages of war, and property taken for the use of the army or navy.

The Committee urge other considerations, but the report was not acted upon by the House, owing to the expiration of the morning hour.

TRAITOR VESSELS.

Mr. LYNCH offered a preamble, setting forth that American ships, in order to be secure from Rebel cruisers placed themselves under foreign flags, thereby securing the advantage of neutrals by abandoning the flag of their own country and identifying their interests with the destroyers of our commerce, and should not be permitted to register their vessels in American ports, as they have done and are now doing, in violation of our navigation laws; therefore,

Resolved, That all vessels, once American, whose national character has been changed or placed under a foreign flag or register, should be treated as foreign-built vessels, and never again be allowed an American register.

The resolution was referred to the Committee on Commerce.

FOREIGN VESSELS UNDER AMERICAN REGISTERS.

Mr. LYNCH also submitted a resolution, which was passed, calling upon the Secretary of the Treasury to communicate to the House what number of vessels, previously under foreign registers, have been allowed to take out American registers since the 31st of December, 1864, with the respective dates of such American register, and the authority or law by which such changes of register have been allowed.

The SPEAKER said there was a communication on the table affording such information.

NEGRO SUFFRAGE IN THE DISTRICT.

The House resumed consideration of the bill to extend suffrage in the District of Columbia, by striking from all laws and ordinances in force therein the word "white."

SPEECH OF MR. CLARKE.

Mr. CLARKE (Kansas) refuted what he termed the fallacy that "this is a white man's Government," and at some length argued that colored men were always included within the term, "citizens of the republic." He advocated impartial suffrage in this District, and said that the passage of this bill would be hailed by the friends of freedom everywhere as a return to national justice.

SPEECH OF MR. JOHNSON.

Mr. JOHNSON said that now, for the first time, it was sought to confer upon the negroes a part in the management, direction and control of this Government. For this there was no foundation in right or justice. Never yet, on the face of the earth, has a popular government been organized and maintained by the African race. When a black man becomes a voter he becomes a part of the Government. The right of suffrage belongs only to whom the Government belongs, and he maintained that we can have a Republic without conceding to all the privilege of the elective franchise. The man who votes is eligible to be voted for, and this is the very foundation of popular government. Machine voting was to be introduced here such as prevailed in Baltimore in Know-Nothing times, when a certain amount of money was placed in a precinct to secure a certain number of votes; and if votes enough were not furnished, they were supplied by return day. And the conferring of suffrage on the negroes here looked very much like the continuation of the substitute system under the conscription law. There was a large floating population here, having no permanent residence, being clerks in the public departments, who went home once a year to renew their allegiance to the candidates of their district, in order that the candidates, if elected, may keep them in office all the time. Therefore they sought negro voters as substitutes, just as they did negroes for substitutes during the war.

SPEECH OF MR. BOUTWELL.

Mr. BOUTWELL was opposed to all dilatory motions on this bill and to the instructions moved by the gentleman from New-York, because he saw in them no advantage to any one, and because he apprehended from them much evil to the country. It should be borne in mind that when we emancipated the black people we not only relieved ourselves of the institution of Slavery, and not only conferred freedom upon them, but we did more—we recognized the manhood of these people, which, by the old Constitution, and general policy and usage of the country from the time of the adoption of the Constitution of the United States until the Emancipation Proclamation, had been denied to them. As a consequence of the recognition of their manhood certain results followed in accordance with the principles of the Government, and those who believe in the Government are forced to accept the results of emancipation, and to say—Now, having given freedom to these people, they shall not enjoy the essential rights and privileges of men—is to abandon the principles of emancipation and tacitly to admit that the whole emancipation policy is erroneous. We are bound to treat the black man, as we do the white, man in the matter of voting. The restoration of the eleven Rebellious States should be coupled or preceded by a condition that the negroes of the South should vote, without which we open a way from which there is no escape from the destruction of the Government. The Rebels are still hostile, and only seek an opportunity to strike the blow. They are massing in Virginia, South Carolina and Louisiana claims to the amount of thousands of millions of dollars, on account of depredations committed by our armies. And now Senators and Representatives were invited from those States to enforce these claims. This Congress is incorruptible; but we do not know what the character of our successors may be. In conclusion, he opposed the putting of property qualifications on voters. With voting, everything which a man ought to have comes to him; without voting, he secures nothing. The negroes, by their services in the field, have a right to share in the Government. If the elective franchise were denied, he knew not how the colored people were to be protected, unless it be such protection as is given to the lamb when it is handed over to the wolf.

SPEECH OF MR. WILSON.

Mr. WILSON (Iowa) said the first motion to be acted upon by the House was that of the gentleman from New-York (Mr. Darling) to postpone the further consideration of the bill until April. This motion was placed by the gentleman in antagonism to the exercise of the elective franchise by any person of color. In order that the decision between them might be made, he amended the previous question.

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE.

Mr. NIBLACK (Ind.) moved that the whole subject be laid upon the table. This was decided in the negative by a vote of 46 Yeas against 123 Nays.

Mr. DARLING modified his motion so as to postpone the consideration of the bill till the first Tuesday in March. This was disagreed to—34 against 134.

Mr. WILSON (Iowa), when he heretofore reported this bill from the Committee on the Judiciary, at the same time moved that it be recommitted.

Mr. HALE (N. Y.) had moved as an amendment to the motion that the bill be recommitted for amendment, so as to extend the suffrage in the District to all persons coming within either of the following classes, irrespective of color, but subject only to existing provisions and qualifications, to wit:

First—Those who can read the Constitution of the United States.

Second—Those who are assessed for, and pay taxes on, real or personal property within this District.

Third—Those who have served in and been honorably discharged from the military or naval service of the United States, and to restrict such suffrage to the classes named, and to include proper provisions, excluding from the right of suffrage those who have borne arms against the United States during the late rebellion, or given aid and comfort to said rebellion.

Mr. SCHENCK suggested that the following clause be stricken from the proposed instructions, viz.: Those who are assessed for, and pay taxes on, real or personal property within this District.

Mr. HALE declined to accept of the modification.

Mr. WILSON (Iowa) briefly stated his objections to the instructions.

The House struck from the instructions the property qualification clause, and then refused to recommit the bill to the Committee of the Judiciary with the remainder of the instructions, 53 against 117, as follows:

YEAS—Messrs. Anderson, Banks, Blow, Brandagee, Bromwell, Buckland, Clarke (Ohio), Conkling, Darling, Davis, Dawes, Defrees, Delano, Deming, Dixon, Driggs, Eckley, Eggleston, Ferry, Griswold, Hale, Hart, Hayes, Henderson, Hooper, Hulburd, James Humphrey, Jenckes, Kasson, Ketchum, Kuykendall, Laflin, Latham, Lawrence (Pa.), Lawrence (Ohio), Longyear, Marvin, Miller, Moorhead, Morris, Myers, O'Neill, Plants, Raymond, Rice (Mass.), Schenck, Stillwell, Trowbridge, Van Horn (N. Y.), Van Horn (Mo.), Warner, Washburne (Mass.), and Woodbridge—53.

NAYS—Messrs. Alley, Allison, Ames, Ancona, Ashley (Nevada), Ashley (Ohio), Baker, Baldwin, Barker, Baxter, Beaman, Benjamin, Bergen, Bidwell, Bingham, Blaine, Boutwell, Boyer, Brooks, Broomall, Bundy, Chanler, Clarke (Kansas), Cobb, Cook, Cullom, Dawson, Dennison, Donnelly, Eldridge, Eliot, Farnsworth, Farquhar, Finck, Garfield, Glossbrenner, Goodyear, Grider, Grinnell, Harding (Ky.), Harding (Ill.), Higby, Hill, Hogan, Holmes, Hubbard (Iowa), Hubbard (W. V.), Hubbard (N. Y.), Hubbard (Conn.), Hubbell (N. Y.), James M. Humphrey, Ingersoll, Johnson, Jones, Julian, Kelley, Kelso, Kerr, LeBlond, Loan, Lynch, Marshall, Marston, McClurg, McCullough, McKee, Mercur, Morrill, Moulton, Niblack, Nicholson, Noell, Orth, Paine, Patterson, Perham, Phelps, Pomeroy, Price, Radford, Randall (Pa.), Randall (Ky.), Rice (Me.), Ritter, Rogers, Rollins, Ross, Sawyer, Scofield, Shanklin, Shellabarger, Sitgreaves, Sloan, Smith, Spalding, Starr, Stevens, Strouse, Taber, Taylor, Thayer, Francis Thomas, John L. Thomas, Thornton, Trimble, Upson, Van Aernam, Voorhees, Ward, Washburne (Ill.), Welker, Wentworth, Williams, Wilson (Iowa), Wilson (Pa.), Windom and Winfield—117.

The House voted on the bill as originally introduced by Mr. Kelley, and reported back by Mr. Wilson of Iowa from the Committee on the Judiciary without amendment, and which is as follows:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That from all laws and parts of laws, and prescribing the qualifications of electors for any office in the District of Columbia, the word "white," and the same is hereby stricken out, and that from and after the passage of this act no person shall be disqualified from voting at any election held in the said district on account of color.

SECTION 2. *And be it further enacted*, That all acts of Congress, and all laws of the State of Maryland in force in said District, and all ordinances of Washington and Georgetown inconsistent with the provisions of this act, are hereby repealed and annulled.

The bill was passed—Yeas, 116; Nays, 54—as follows:

YEAS—Messrs. Alley, Ames, Allison, Ashley (Ohio), Baker, Baldwin, Banks, Barker, Baxter, Beaman, Bidwell, Bingham, Blaine, Blow, Boutwell, Brandagee, Broomall, Bromwell, Buckland, Bundy, Clarke (Ohio), Clarke (Kansas), Cobb, Conkling, Cook, Cullom, Darling, Davis, Defrees, Delano, Deming, Dixon, Donelly, Driggs, Eckley, Eggleston, Eliot, Farnsworth, Ferry, Garfield, Grinnell, Griswold, Hale, Harding, Hart, Hayes, Higby, Holmes, Hooper, Hubbard (Iowa), Hubbard (N. Y.), Hubbard (Conn.), Hulburd, James Humphrey, Ingersoll, Jenckes, Julian, Kasson, Kelley, Kelso, Ketchum, Laflin, Lawrence (Penn.), Lawrence (Ohio), Loan, Longyear, Lynch, Marston, Marvin, McClurg, Mercur, Miller, Moorhead, Morrill, Morris, Moulton, Myers, O'Neill, Orth, Paine, Patterson, Perham, Pike, Plants, Pomeroy, Price, Raymond, Rice (Mass.), Rice (Me.), Rollins, Sawyer, Schenck, Scofield, Shellabarger, Sloan, Spalding, Starr, Stevens, Thayer, Francis Thomas, Trowbridge, Upson, Van Aernam, Van Horn, Ward, Warner, Washburne (Ill.), Washburne (Mass.), Welker, Wentworth, Williams, Wilson (Iowa), Wilson (Penn.), Windom, Woodbridge—116.

NAYS—Messrs. Ancona, Anderson, Ashley (Nevada), Benjamin, Bergen, Boyer, Brooks, Chanler, Dawson, Denison, Eldridge, Farquhar, Finck, Glossbrenner, Goodyear, Grider, Harding (Ky.), Henderson, Hill, Hogan, Hubbard (W. Va.), Hubbell (N. Y.), James M. Humphrey, Johnson, Jones, Kerr, Kuykendall, Latham, LeBlond, Marshall, McCullough, McKee, Niblack, Nicholson, Noell, Phelps, Radford, Randall (Pa.), Randall (Ky.), Ritter, Rogers, Ross, Shanklin, Sitgreaves, Smith, Stillwell, Strouse, Taber, Taylor, Thornton, Trimble, Van Horn (Mo.), Voorhees, Winfield—54.

When the result of the vote was announced, applause followed from the floor to the galleries.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House then adjourned.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to The N. Y. Tribune.

WASHINGTON, Thursday, Jan. 18, 1866.

NEGRO SUFFRAGE IN THE DISTRICT.

The great event of the day is the passage of the bill establishing colored suffrage without qualification in the District of Columbia. When yesterday it was announced that to-day at 3½ o'clock the previous question would be moved on the propositions pending, it was expected by many that the final decision would be postponed, so as to give a chance for harmonizing the different views urged by Republican members, and to cut off the debate for the present so as to give an opportunity for the transaction of other business. The bill, however, was pressed to a final vote by Mr. Wilson, Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, which had the bill in its keeping. Previous to the vote, upon a motion to postpone the consideration of the bill to some future day, Mr. Boutwell delivered a most eloquent and forcible speech in favor of universal manhood suffrage. Amid intense excitement the postponement was rejected and the bill passed under the operation by a vote of 116 to 52. Most of the Republican members who were known to favor qualification recorded their votes with the majority in favor of the bill. The result was greeted on the floor and in the galleries by a general outburst of applause. It will be noted that the bill was passed by a two-thirds majority, and 12 votes to spare. It is expected that the Senate will follow the example of the House at an early day, and then the work of reconstruction on the basis of universal justice will be inaugurated.

RECONSTRUCTION.

In the Senate the discussion on Mr. Howe's reconstruction resolutions was continued. Mr. Nesmith read a long speech, which had the merit of being without pretensions.

SENATOR WADE'S SPEECH.

He was followed by Mr. Wade of Ohio, who, in an off-hand effort, replied to the arguments advanced by Mr. Doolittle. It is impossible to do justice to the power of Mr. Wade's speech by merely giving a synopsis of his remarks. His arguments came down with the force of a sledge-hammer. Everybody that listened to Mr. Wade felt the electric influence of a manly character, and the force of deep convictions. During the delivery of the speech, contrary to Senatorial habits, hardly anybody on the floor wrote a letter or read a newspaper. No speech could have been followed with closer attention. The galleries were fairly awed by the power of the declarations that rang up from the Chamber. The speech consisted less in labored argumentation than in an array of strong statements, scorching criticism and forcible appeals. Everybody felt the pressure of the man who, when the opponents of Slavery were still in a hopeless minority in the Senate, cowed the virulence of Southern bullies by the mere force of his intrepidity.

NEW-YORK COLLECTORSHIP.

A deputation of prominent New-Yorkers, consisting of T. G. Winston, R. H. Burdell, H. B. Claflin, Effingham Townsend and Francis Skiddy, waited on the President to-day to urge the appointment of Henry A. Smythe, President of the Central National Bank of New-York, as Collector of that port.

INTERNAL REVENUE.

The receipts from Internal Revenue to-day were $7,035 95.

NEW FIFTY-CENT NOTE.

The new fifty-cent note was to-day issued by the Printing Bureau of the Treasury Department. The new issue is similar to the old one in size, and differs from it only in the substitution of a finely-engraved picture of Gen. Spinner in place of ex-Treasurer Fessenden, and slightly in its typographical appearance. It is the desire of the Department to call in all old notes of the denomination mentioned in order to redeem the genuine and destroy the immense amount of counterfeit fifty-cent fractional currency.

SOUTHERN LIGHT-HOUSES.

A large number of important light-houses on the Southern coast still remain unestablished, owing to the delay of Congress in making the necessary appropriation.

THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT.

The Secretary of the Treasury is now engaged in reorganizing his bureaus, and has requested the clerks who are petitioning Congress for higher pay to wait until his measure is decided upon. He hopes to reduce the clerical staff of his Department from 2,700 clerks to 2,000, and by dividing the pay of the 2,700 among the 2,000, to satisfy all parties.

INTERNAL REVENUE COMMISSION.

The Commission, composed of David A. Wells and others, appointed to examine the whole subject of Internal Revenue, and to report what taxes to increase and what to diminish, are now in this city, and have held a conference to-day with Secretary McCulloch. It is understood that their report is not yet commenced.

PUBLIC LANDS—IMPORTANT DECISION.

The Secretary of the Interior to-day made the following important decision relative to the public lands of the United States:

Where a party may have filed a preëmption declaration on a tract of land, and the time of settlement is shown to have been subsequent to the survey, the settler may convert such preëmption right into a homestead, but in cases where the settlement was made prior to the survey, and the party filed a preëmption right to the land, he will be required to perform his engagement under the preëmption law or incur the penalty of his failure.

BURNING OF GOVERNMENT COTTON.

Col. Loomis, special Treasury agent at Richmond, arrived here this morning to confer with the Department in the matter of the burning of $20,000 worth of Government cotton in the fire at that city on Tuesday.

BONDED WAREHOUSE IN RICHMOND.

John Humphrey, Collector of Customs for the same city, is also in town arranging to establishment of a bonded warehouse, a facility becoming absolutely necessary to the business.

PERSONAL.

Major-Gen. Curtis and staff, from the Department of South-Western Virginia, are in town awaiting mustering out.

R. M. T. HUNTER AND TWO MULES.

R. M. T. Hunter of Virginia has recently made application to the Treasury for the cancellation of a note which he gave to the Special Agent of the Department for the redemption of two mules, abandoned property of the Confederacy, which were seized and exposed for sale by the said agent. The note coming due on the 1st inst., R. M. T. H. pleads for its cancellation on the ground that he sustained great losses from both armies during the late war.

FROM NORTHERN ALABAMA.

Col. J. J. Giers, from Northern Alabama, arrived here to-day with a petition signed by many hundreds of loyal people living in Northern Alabama, setting forth their deplorable situation under a civil government in the hands of reconstructed Rebels, asking for the protection of the Government, and protesting against the reëstablishment of the State militia on a Rebel basis.

To the Associated Press.

NOMINATIONS CONFIRMED.

The Senate in Executive Session, confirmed the following nominations:

Robert B. Von Volkenberg of New-York, to be Minister Resident of the United States to Japan, vice Chauncey M. Depew, declined; Earl Bill, to be United States Marshal for the Northern District of Idaho; Martin T. Rider to be United States Marshal for Western Tennessee; James H. Alvord of Idaho Territory, to be United States Marshall for the District of Idaho.

OPINION OF COLORED MEN ABOUT SUFFRAGE.

Seven colored men, representing large numbers of colored citizens North and South and in the District of Columbia, being authorized to speak, publish a card to-day, addressed to the members of Congress, respectfully submitting that in the issue now pending before Congress for the extension of the franchise, the action should be based on the idea that there can, of right, be no privileged class before the law in a Republican Government; and they seriously and most earnestly object to any discrimination in such qualification on account of color, because to do so would be invidiously affecting them, and exposing them to similar class legislation throughout the land, and thus make us liable to the greatest injustice. They want the bill to affect alike all loyal citizens in the District of Columbia.

The French in Mexico—Prospects of their Speedy Withdrawal—Our Special Dispatches Confirmed—Can we Afford a War?—The Emperor's Speech to the French Legislature—The Reconstruction Committee—Condition of Things at the South—Work in Congress—Financial—Congress and the President—Indorsing the President's Policy—Basis of Reconstruction—Mr. Conkling's Resolution.

From Our Special Correspondent.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17, 1866.

The information I gave you a few days ago about a private letter from Paris, concerning the prospective action of the Emperor of France, is strengthened by similar statements received here through other channels. I am informed that dispatches have reached the State Department, encouraging the belief that the French Government will make haste to withdraw its forces from Mexican soil, and that thus the peaceful relations between the United States and France will be left undisturbed. The indications are—and I state this upon the authority of the letters received here—that the French Government is well aware of the magnitude of the dangers and difficulties in which it would entangle itself by running the risk of a war with the United States, and that, in order to avoid complications of so grave a nature, it will be found willing to retrace its steps as speedily as possible, unless forced, by precipitate action on our part, to "defend the honor of the French flag."

Whatever importance we may attach to such promises, however little trust we may place in French diplomacy, the event of a war with a first-class European Power is a matter grave enough for us to make us consider whether it will not be best to exhaust all the means of peaceable negotiation before measures are resorted to which would force the French Government into a hostile attitude even against its will. Neither the condition of our national finances nor that of our home affairs are such as to permit us to listen to passionate counsel with impunity. There are people here who seem bent upon precipitating matters before those advices can be received from Europe which must inevitably give us a clearer view of the situation; and it is rumored—I fear not without reason—that in some quarters it is deemed expedient to rush into complications with foreign powers, for the purpose of giving a new turn to our home affairs. However that may be, the nation owes it to its good name, as well as to its true interests, to place itself in an attitude which, even if, after all, we should be obliged to resort to sterner measures, will permit nobody to say that the American people insisted upon precipitating themselves into a difficulty without even taking the time to listen to conciliatory propositions from the other side.

As the Legislative Body of the French Empire will assemble on the 18th, that is, to-morrow, at the latest, we may expect to have the Emperor's opening speech here about the 1st of February. Leading men in Congress do not consider that a fortnight's delay will compromise either our dignity or our interests; and, whatever pressure may be brought to bear upon them, the Committees on Foreign Relations are not likely to bring the Mexican business to the attention of Congress until such official advices are received from Europe as will enable them to take a clear view of the case. Every considerate man will thank them for it.

While we are thus in a state of expectancy as far as our foreign relations are concerned, our home affairs receive their due share of attention. The Committee of Fifteen is busily at work, and, as it is now authorized by both Houses to send for persons and papers, it may reasonably be expected that it will soon be able to lay before the country that "reliable information," which will form the basis of the future action of Congress and the people. As the operations of the Committee are conducted in secret, and that secret is well kept, it would be useless to indulge in speculation. I may say, however, that the news we receive from the South, while giving favorable indications of the willingness of the negroes to work, does by no means indicate that the whites, as a class, are willing to treat them as free laborers ought to be treated, and that Unionists and Northern people living in the South find their residence there agreeable or even safe. The testimony of travelers and officers recently returned from the South is almost uniform in that respect. We cannot better the unfortunate condition of things as it exists, by indulging in vain delusions, or by expressing unwarranted hopes.

The deliberations of Congress are likely now to take a more practical turn. To-day Mr. Doolittle will speak on Reconstruction. Mr. Trumbull's bill will then form the chief subject of discussion in the Senate for some time. Mr. Hendricks from Indiana, who is considered the ablest man on the Democratic side of that body, is expected to lead off with a speech in opposition to the bill. The speech is looked for with considerable interest. It will turn out that the Democrats, who are in such firm array against the theories advanced by the Republicans, will oppose with no less tenacity every practical measure calculated to insure to the free laboring population of the South that protection without which their condition will be that of a new form of servitude.

The Committee of Ways and Means is now getting ready to lay before the House propositions of great importance concerning the financial affairs of the Government, the discussion of which will, in its turn, interfere with the speedy solution of the negro suffrage and other kindred problems.

The question whether there will be a rupture between the President and Congress is as interesting a topic of conversation as ever, although one might think people would grow a little tired of it. That mysterious thing, "the President's Policy," continues to haunt Congressional discussions, as well as private talk, like a rapping spirit. Is the majority in Congress in favor of "the President's Policy?" If it is "the President's Policy" to have the Rebel States readmitted without exacting from them any further guaranties for future good behavior, than the majority in Congress is decidedly not in favor of "the President's Policy." And to judge from the indications we have of the sentiment of the people, the masses are just as little in favor of "the President's Policy" as the majority in Congress. If it is "the President's Policy" not to admit the Rebel States without such guaranties, then the President, or somebody authorized to speak for him, ought to say so, and an effort would be made to find, if possible, a basis for harmonious coöperation.

But at present people talk about and "indorse" "the President's policy;" each individual endeavoring to put such a construction upon it as suits his taste, and thus virtually "indorsing" his own views. The worst of it is, that this "indorsing" mania is interpreted by the President, and represented to him by his particular "friends," as meaning that his "policy" is enthusiastically sustained by the people *whatever it may be*. In fact, he recently expressed himself to a Republican member of the House to the effect that he understood his policy to be heartily "indorsed" *by both parties*. This is certainly a pleasant illusion to indulge in. And under the influence of that delusion it is quite natural that the President, when speaking of his desire to maintain harmony between himself and Congress, should mean that kind of harmony which would result from Congress harmoniously accepting what he thinks fit to do or say.

It would be a blessing if somebody would make it his business to clear up this confusion of ideas. He would do more toward bringing about an understanding between Congress and the President than the most artistically qualified "Indorsement of the President's policy."

OBSERVER.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17, 1866.

The Constitutional amendment, introduced in the House by Mr. Conkling, has been incorrectly rendered in the papers. It is as follows:

"Representatives and direct taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their respective numbers, counting the whole number of citizens of the United States persons: *Provided*, That whenever, in any State, *civil or political rights or privileges* shall be denied or abridged on account of race or color, all persons of such race or color shall be excluded from the basis of representation."

"Representatives and direct taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union according to their respective numbers, counting the whole number of citizens of the United States persons: *Provided*, That whenever, in any State, the *elective franchise* shall be denied or abridged on account of race or color, all persons of such race or color shall be excluded from the basis of representation."

It was introduced for the reason that the excellent proposition offered by Mr. Blaine was open to the following objection: Excluding from the basis of representation in a State those to whom civil or political rights or privileges are denied or abridged by the Constitution or laws of any State on account of race or color, it might be construed as meaning only black men; the civil rights usually accorded to women and children might be conceded to them, thus including them in the basis of representation, while their natural representatives, the men, are excluded from all political privileges. By such a plan, say 3,300,000 of the black race might be counted for swelling the representation, and only 700,000 or 800,000 would be lost for the same purpose. Mr. Conkling's amendment provides that the exclusion from rights of any part of a race shall deprive the races of the injustice of the *whole race* for purposes of aggrandizement.

It is, however, necessary to amend it by making "persons" instead of "citizens" the basis of representation, as stated in yesterday's TRIBUNE, to make it acceptable to those States which have a large population of foreign immigrants not yet fully naturalized. The good features of Mr. Blaine's and Mr. Conkling's amendments put together will obviate all these objections.

OBSERVER.