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U. S. CONGRESS.—In the Senate yesterday, the legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bill was under consideration.

In the House of Representatives, a resolution was adopted providing for evening sessions. A resolution was adopted declaring that the present condition of the country, and its finances, imperatively demands a greatly increased tariff on luxuries imported from abroad, and heavily increased taxes on articles of domestic production. Another resolution was adopted declaring that the expansion of bank circulation, having led to general and ruinous speculations in public securities, should be repressed by direct taxation. A resolution looking to the reduction of the amount of paper money now in circulation, by repealing the National Bank Act, and limiting the circulation to legal tender notes, was introduced but went over. The Bank bill was passed by a vote of 78 to 63. A joint resolution, increasing the import duties fifty per cent. until the 1st of July, on all goods, wares and merchandize, now taxed, failed for want of a two-thirds vote.

The report that General Meade contemplated falling back to the rear, on the second day of the battle of Gettysburg, it is said, arose out of a misapprehension on the part of Gen. Butterfield of an order to examine the ground in the rear, in view of the disposition of artillery. General Butterfield actually prepared an order for a rear movement under this misapprehension of General Meade's intention.

It appears from the testimony of Gen. Hunt that he was relieved by General Hooker of the command of the artillery of the Army of the Potomac, immediately before the battle of Chancellorsville, and that the day after the battle he was reinstated, so that during the engagement there was no responsible head to that branch of the service.

The Washington correspondent of the Baltimore Sun says:—"Upon the representation of Mr. Chase's letter to the Finance Committee, that the accruing revenue should be half of current expenditures, there cannot be much doubt but that Congress will pass the tax bill substantially as reported by the ways and means committee, as well as Mr. Thaddeus Stevens's bill to tax State banks, "which being interpreted" means that all State banks shall have their capital in government securities, and for their issues government paper."

Three regiments of negroes, fully equipped and under marching orders, passed through Baltimore yesterday. They were "part of Maryland's quota."

President Lincoln has commuted the sentences of several prisoners, all of whom were tried by court martial and sentenced to be shot, to imprisonment at the Dry Tortugas during the war.

The Washington New Era, the organ of the Fremont party, says in its introductory article: "The knell of the old Union was sounded by the Rebel bombardment of Fort Sumter, and from that moment down to the present time there has never been any real choice except that between a sweeping revolution and overthrow of the whole frame-work of Southern society, and an acknowledgment of the Southern Confederacy. The dead cannot be brought to life. The restoration of the old Union was never anything but the day dream of men unable to understand and grapple with a great crisis. Let us hope that enough of blood and treasure has been wasted in the pursuit of that phantom."

The bill to prevent speculative transactions in gold and foreign exchange which has passed the U. S. Senate, declares that it shall be unlawful to make any contract for the purchase, or sale, or loan, or delivery of any gold coin or bullion, or of foreign exchange, at any time subsequent to making of contract, or for payment of any sum, fixed or contingent, on default of delivery of said coin, &c. It provides also that none but bona fide owners, in actual possession, shall make a contract for the sale of gold, and forbids any banker or broker, or other person, to make sale of gold coin or bullion or foreign exchange, or to make contract for any such purchase or sale at other than his ordinary place of business.

The Washington Star announces that the joint committee of the U. S. Congress, on the conduct of the war have determined, after consultation with the War Department, to send to Fort Pillow and Cairo a sub-committee of two, with a stenographic reporter, to enquire into all the circumstances of the alleged murder of Federal troops after surrendering, at the first named point; and also into the circumstances of its being occupied, surrendered, &c.

On the 29th of March, Colonel Neeley attacked a body of Federal troops near Bolivar, capturing their entire wagon train, killing thirty and taking thirty-five prisoners. On the 13th instant, General Wheeler attacked, at daylight a Federal force near Benton, killing several and capturing one Lieutenant and thirty-five men.

The U. S. Secretary of the Navy has, it is stated, ordered one war vessel to be prepared for the purpose of testing the experiment of substituting petroleum oil for coal.

U. S. Minister to Japan, Mr. Pruyn, has negotiated a new treaty with Japan, regulating the duties for certain articles of trade which were omitted in the former treaty.

It is stated that a number of bogus mining companies have been started in Wall street, N. Y., and that many parties in the "rural districts" have already been swindled by them.

Nineteen of the scalded by the explosion on the U. S. gunboat Chenango have died.—Fourteen more of the sufferers are at the Marine Hospital, mortally wounded.

Frequent arrivals of steamers at Wilmington, with valuable cargoes for the Confederate authorities, are still announced.

FOREIGN NEWS.—European advices to the 6th inst., have been received at New York.—The Danish war was still going on. The Danes are reported to have defeated the Prussians at Vicle. The Danish fortification at Duppel had been turned by the Austrians and Prussians crossing to Alsen Island. Lord Palmerston had stated, in the House of Commons that all the Powers which signed the treaty of 1852 have consented to send representatives to a conference. No answer has been received from the German Diet. The conference would endeavor to restore peace without an armistice between the Germans and Denmark. France will only ask the inhabitants of the Duchies to declare what Government they prefer, in the event of the greater part of the Powers abandoning the treaties of 1851. The London Daily News states that the difficulties about the acceptance of the Mexican crown by Maximilian have been solved by a compromise with the Emperor of Austria, and the Archduke will shortly proceed to Mexico. The Courts of London, Rome, Vienna, Berlin, St. Petersburg, Spain and France have agreed to recognize the Emperor of Mexico immediately on his accession to the throne. The British House of Lords had given judgment in the case of the Alexandra, adverse to the crown, and dismissing the appeal from the judgment of the courts. In the House of Commons Sir Agnew gave notice that he would ask Government, on the 8th, whether reports have been received from consular officers in the United States, to the effect that English subjects have been kidnapped and detained, and otherwise outraged, with the object of forcing them to serve as soldiers in the Federal army. Lord Clarendon had moved in the House of Lords for the correspondence in reference to the removal of British consuls from Southern ports. The motion was agreed to. The Confederate loan is quoted at 51@53. Virginia sixes have declined one per cent.

The Georgia Legislature has passed resolutions in favor of offering terms of peace to the United States, upon the basis of independence, after every Confederate victory; also, against the suspension of habeas corpus, and the Confederate conscription law. Mr. Stevens, of Ga., in a speech expressed himself in favor of these resolutions.

The New York Evening Post says:—"Under the present state of things there is no limit to the circulation of the National Banks to the amount which they can procure from the Treasury. As their capital continues to increase, our paper circulation will continue to expand."

The Washington Chronicle in advocating a new Tariff bill for an increase of duties says that "many contemplate an embargo," as a war measure.

The Washington Star asserts that the "country evidently has more to fear just now from Congress than the rebels in arms."