

The Alexandria Gazette

WEDNESDAY EVENING, JUNE 15.

The Military Committee of the U. S. Senate favor the proposed abolishment of the Three Hundred Dollar commutation feature of the enrollment law, with the exception of the Chairman, Mr. Wilson, who has given notice of his intention to offer certain amendments. The effect is to give one hundred dollars bounty to drafted men at the end of a year's service, and a proportional bounty for less time, if honorably discharged before the expiration of the year. He also proposes to engraft on it a provision "for voluntary enlistments into regiments of other States, from States in insurrection, and for securing the freedom of the wives and children of colored soldiers enlisted."

A later dated "Castle Thunder," Richmond, has been received by the mother of Miss Dr. Mary Walker, from which the following is an extract: "I hope you are not grieving about me, because I am a prisoner of war. I am living in a three story brick castle, with plenty to eat, and a clean bed to sleep in. I have a room mate, a young lady about twenty years of age, from near Corinth, Mississippi, (Miss Martha Manus.) I am much happier than I might be in some relations of life where I might be envied by other ladies. The officers are gentlemanly and kind, and it will not be long before I am exchanged."

Some of the letter writers to the Northern papers give most distressing accounts of the late burning of Alexandria, Louisiana, and of proceedings in Georgia, by the Federal troops, which they represent as having exasperated in a high degree the people there, and very much embittered the already hostile feeling. War, according to these accounts, is assuming its most ferocious features.

The Coal Agents in Georgetown are shipping large quantities of Maryland coal, much of it to northern ports. A large number of vessels have been freighted during the week and others remain at the wharves to receive their cargoes. Great efforts are making by speculators to keep up the price of coal, notwithstanding the large profits of last year and the largely increased shipments.

The movements of the Confederates in the Trans Mississippi Department are looked upon in some quarters as intended to reinforce General Johnston by General Dick Taylor's command, which, at last accounts, was on the west side of the Atchafalaya river.

The "Virginia State Journal" says that the military and civil authorities here have determined to order from the place a large number of abandoned characters, principally females, who have flocked here since the war commenced.

The Trans-Atlantic telegraph between France and the United States is to start from Brest, via the Azores, and to connect with the French Island off New Foundland.

A dispatch from Falmouth, Ky., says that after the Cynthia defeat Hobson and part of his staff were put under arrest and sent to Falmouth.

Valparaiso dates to the 7th state that the whole Chilian and Peruvian coast is highly excited at the recent Spanish occupation of the Chinch Islands, and the two Ministers of State and Finance of Chili have been compelled to resign on account of proposing a settlement of difficulties by diplomacy, and new ministers appointed. The Chilian navy is being augmented; the principal ports are being fortified, and large subscriptions being added to that of Congress to place the country on a war footing, and to aid Peru in resisting the Spanish invasion. Bolivia, Columbia, Ecuador, and the Argentine Republic are also preparing to assist Peru.

In the Senate of the United States yesterday, a bill was passed appropriating three hundred and fifty thousand dollars for the repair of works connected with the harbors on the lakes and on the seaboard. The fortification appropriation bill was passed. The bill to establish a "Bureau of Freedmen's Affairs" was debated. In the House of Representatives the Senate bill to restrain speculation in gold coin and bullion, was passed by a vote of 76 yeas to 62 nays. The resolution to amend the Constitution so as to abolish slavery was debated.

The Richmond Examiner of the 9th says:—"While the Yankees are making themselves merry over the supposed destitution and starvation existing in our armies, the best evidence to the contrary is afforded by the extraordinary spectacle of the soldiers frequently donating their rations to help to feed the suffering. The 30th Virginia regiment, Corse's brigade, yesterday lumped their entire rations for that day and sent it, in flour, meal, bacon, etc., to be distributed among the poor of Richmond."

In the British House of Commons on the 1st, on a motion that the House go into committee on the bill to abolish the religious test at the Oxford University, an amendment was proposed by the Conservatives rejecting the bill, but the Liberals gained the victory by a majority of ten in a full House of four hundred and sixty-two.

Several citizens of Loudoun county have been recently arrested as hostages and committed to the Old Capitol prison in Washington; among them Wm. H. Gray, Dr. A. R. Mott, Dr. Cross, J. W. Edwards, J. P. Smart and E. L. Bentley. Dr. Mott and Mr. Smart were yesterday unconditionally released and sent home.

The U. S. Navy Department has been informed that on the 2d inst. the U. S. steamer Wamsutta, stationed off Georgetown, S. C., chased a side-wheel steamer, which proved to be the Rose, of London, with an assorted cargo, until she ran aground. After a fruitless effort to get the Rose afloat, she was destroyed.

Panama papers give particulars of a fire at Aspinwall on the 30th ult., which destroyed two blocks, including the City Hotel and several fine residences. The loss is heavy. An attempt to assassinate Mosquera was unsuccessful, and the assassins were arrested. The Spanish Admiral and Commissioner have been burnt in effigy at Panama.

A Lincoln, ratification meeting is to be held in Washington to-night.

Frauds in the "Western Department."

The Report of the Federal Military Commission presided over by Major Gen. Irvin McDowell, and charged with the examination into alleged frauds in the "Western Department," has been transmitted by Secretary Stanton to the Senate of the U. S. The following is a summary of the report.

Gen. S. R. Curtis, in the case of the cotton of Gen. Pillow, was found to have used the proceeds in supplying the contrabands, though it was not shown specifically how all the money was applied. In the case of Saunders and Woodson's cotton all was accounted for except \$275. The whole cotton was fully accounted for, excepting that gold was received for it while at seventeen per cent. premium, and currency paid over in its stead.

One hundred and eight bales, seized from Matt Ward in Arkansas and sent to Helena, were afterward purchased and the proceeds paid to Mrs. Ward.

Major H. S. Curtis, Major McMinney, and Lieut. Guylee, of Gen. Curtis's staff, it was ascertained, were interested in the purchase of 181 bales of cotton.

Brig. Gen. Hovey was exonerated from the charge of forcibly returning fifteen negroes to slavery but was found to be connected with the traffic in cotton.

Col. Slack, of the 47th Indiana, was found to have traded in cotton, and to have captured silver ware from Mrs. Cogwell, in Mississippi who complained that it was not all returned.

Lieut. Kimball, of the 2d Wisconsin Cavalry, stole a diamond pin, which was subsequently returned.

Major Western, 24th Missouri, received \$560 for furnishing a guard for protecting cotton.

Capt. Fred. S. Winston, Assistant Quartermaster, was found interested in cotton in a manner not contemplated by the army regulations, and of depositing the proceeds in a private banking institution instead of the Treasury.

Capt. Howland, of 136 bales shipped to Chicago by one Hagan, was authorized to receive half the nett proceeds and \$2,000.

Among others interested in cotton speculations are named Col. C. C. Marsh and Capt. Bradley, 20th Illinois; Lieut. Col. S. N. Wood, 6th Missouri Cavalry, (who admitted having made \$20,000); Dr. Rezsurg, 33d Illinois; Capt. Jerome Bradley, assistant quartermaster general; Capt. Robert Gorman, (half profits on 102 bales,) \$2,500; Capt. Hayden and Lieut. Wright, 3d Iowa Battery; Lt. Baker, 33d Illinois; Lieut. Flint, 10th Missouri Cavalry; and Lieut. Murdock, 15th Ohio Battery.

Permits were shown to have been granted for cotton trading by Gens. Grant, Curtis, Steele, Gorman, and Washburn, and that transportation had been furnished to some extent for private purposes, for which remuneration was not always received.

TO CITY TAX-PAYERS.

NOTICE is hereby given that the collectors will be in attendance at the Council Chamber on and after the 20th instant, from 10 a. m. until 1 p. m., and from 3 until 6 p. m., for the purpose of settling with the tax-payers. A discount will be allowed to all persons paying their taxes for 1864, in full, in current funds, of twenty per cent. on or before the 1st of July next, and of ten per cent. thereafter and on or before the 1st of August next.

GEO. C. HEWES, Coll. N. D.

O. C. WHITTLESEY, Coll. S. D.

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RACES!—One of the finest races ever seen in this section will come off, on the Alexandria Course, on Thursday Evening next, 16th, at 3 o'clock. Track free! It

REMNANTS! REMNANTS!!

I HAVE on hand about 1,200 yards of Lawns, Calicos, DeLaines and other goods, which I will sell at greatly reduced prices. Call and see for yourself at H. SCHWARZ'S. My 27—ct