

WASHINGTON.

The Cuba Question Before the House—History of Consul Phillips by Gen. Garfield—Protection of Immigrants in New-York—The Various Appropriations—Important Measures Under Consideration.

Special Dispatch to the New-York Times.

WASHINGTON, May 24.—A motion in the House today to strike out of the Consular and Diplomatic bill the appropriation for the Consulate at Santiago de Cuba, produced a lively discussion on the Cuban question. VOORHEES, who made the motion, supported it on the ground that the American flag had failed to protect either our Consul or American citizens. He sent Consul PHILLIPS' statement to the clerk's desk to be read, and scurrilously referred to Mr. FISH as "the dead man who presides over the State Department," closing in a stilted strain about the blood of American citizens crying aloud from the soil of Cuba. BANKS, replying to an allusion to this Committee, said they had long been familiar with this subject, and had been ready to report upon it but could not get the floor for that purpose. He promised to avail himself of the earliest opportunity to do so. LOGAN followed with an ultra-Cuban speech, delivered in his characteristic style. SARGENT laid blame upon the Committee on Appropriations for cutting down the navy, which brought out DAWES, who insisted that the navy was large enough, but not as efficient as it might be. He said upon one instance, when an opportunity offered for the vindication of our flag and the protection of its representatives in Paraguay, we saw a Rear-Admiral "go down on his knees before the tyrant LOPEZ." GARFIELD, while announcing that he should refrain from discussing the Cuban question, took occasion to give some facts about the character of Mr. Consul PHILLIPS, who, in the light of these disclosures, appears to be a person utterly unworthy of credit. He said that PHILLIPS' predecessor, Gen. STEADMAN, died at Santiago de Cuba, and beyond a brief notification of his death his family had been unable to obtain from PHILLIPS any particulars of his decease, nor any portion of his effects, including about \$1,000 in money, which were left in PHILLIPS' possession. He said when PHILLIPS returned to Santiago de Cuba on board a man-of-war he did not land simply because he was unwilling to meet debts of a large amount which he had contracted there. Mr. WILLARD, of Vermont, replied to the attacks of the Democratic side of the House on the Administration, remarking that it ill became them to talk about the shedding of blood of American citizens on foreign soil, when they were so oblivious of, and so insensible to, it at home. Messrs. COX, MUNGLEN and others, participated in the debates. The Democrats appeared far more anxious to impugn the motive of the Administration, and to throw discredit upon it, than to befriend Cuba.

PROTECTION OF IMMIGRANTS.

The bill introduced in the House yesterday by Mr. ATWOOD to incorporate the International Society of the United States for the Protection of Immigration, names Peter Cooper, Wm. M. Vermilye, Edward Solomon, Wm. E. Dodge, J. W. Seligman, Henry Clews and others, as a body corporate to protect immigrants against frauds, to give them information relative to proper places for settling, transportation, and obtain proper accommodations for them while traveling, &c.

The first section makes it the duty of the Company to see that the Immigration laws are enforced, and the officers of the Company are to be allowed free access to passengers upon the arrival of an immigrant vessel. The second section provides that if any person shall be found inducing females to enter houses of ill-fame, the officers of the Company shall have power to prosecute such offender. The third section empowers the Company to receive donations or contributions of money from persons, corporate bodies, State Governments, &c., to be applied to the purposes for which the corporation is created. This corporation shall have power to elect a Board of Trustees, who, at their first meeting, shall elect a President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer, and appoint agents at home and abroad. The Company is to make an annual report to Congress, and there is an express provision that they shall hold no real estate.

THE APPROPRIATIONS IN THE SENATE.

In the Senate today Mr. HARLAN made a long speech, and consumed much valuable time on the Osage Indian bill, replying warmly to the attack of Mr. MORRILL, of Maine, which was made some days ago. The Legislative Appropriation bill was subsequently considered in the afternoon. There was a sharp debate on the report of the Conference Committee, on the bill to enforce the Fifteenth Amendment, which met with a great deal of opposition from the Democrats and from one or two of the ultra Radicals. Finally the bill went over until to-morrow.

THE RIVER AND HARBOR APPROPRIATIONS.

The Committee on Commerce agreed to-day to report the River and Harbor Appropriation bill this week. The entire amount recommended to be expended in public improvements is a fraction under three millions and a half. This is the last of the appropriation bills to be reported. Two hundred and fifty thousand dollars will be given to the Louisville and Portland Canal. The amount appropriated is considered very fair; it is only a little less than one-fourth the sum recommended by the Engineer Department.

THE CAPE COD CANAL.

At a meeting today of the House Committee on Commerce, the subject of the Cape Cod Ship-canal was considered, and the application of the company to build a breakwater in Barnstable Bay as a protection to the canal. The Committee agreed to report a joint resolution to the House on the subject, in which, after reciting the importance of the work and the action of the Massachusetts Legislature, it is resolved:

That the United States hereby pledges the faith of the Government to construct a suitable breakwater and harbor of refuge at the eastern entrance of said ship-canal ready for use on its completion.

The expense of the breakwater is not to exceed \$2,000,000, and appropriations are to be made from time to time for the breakwater according as the canal is constructed. This company will be required to give security for the performance of its part of the contract, namely, the building of the canal.

CABLE PROJECTS.

Mr. FIELD had another hearing before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee this morning, in reference to his Pacific cable, Mr. BARNETT will be heard on Thursday in reference to the Belgian cable project.

THE DECLINE OF OUR COMMERCE.

The labors of the Committee on the Decline of American Commerce do not now promise to produce great results. The House today refused, by 87 yeas to 95 nays, to order the main question. A motion to reconsider was entered, but pending further proceedings, the close of the morning hour sent the bill over till to-morrow. Its friends still profess hopes of its ultimate passage, saying that several members who voted against them today have agreed to support it to-morrow, and that there were a number of absentees whose return will also add to their strength. The bill is strongly opposed by the coasting interests and owners of wooden ships, who claim that the discrimination in favor of iron ships will, if it has the effect intended, destroy the value of their present wooden vessels, which would be laid up to rot. There is a considerable Western opposition to the bill, on the ground that it favors ship-building at the expense of all other commercial interests; and Mr. COBURN, in his speech, gave expression to this view. Mr. BROOKS urged that, if a reduction of duties was to be made for ship-builders, other mechanical and agricultural interests should receive the same benefit. Mr. COX declared himself willing to support the bill if the drawback feature was struck out, while SCHUMACHER thought something like the drawback proposed was necessary to restore our prostrate commerce.

ILLEGAL VOTING AND RIGHTS TO CHINESE.

The Conference Committee on the bill enforcing the Constitutional Amendments preventing illegal voting and giving civil rights to Chinese, after two sessions yesterday and one today, brought their report into the Senate this afternoon. It was signed by STEWART and EDMUNDS, of the Senate, and BINGHAM and DAVIS, of the House, and DISSENTED from by Messrs. STOCKTON and KERR. The bill on which the Committee acted is, EXCEPT

in two particulars, as substantially that passed the Senate last Friday night. That portion of the Thirteenth section authorizing the President to use the army and navy in enforcing the amendment, is changed so that he is to use this force only to aid the judiciary in carrying out the terms of the bill. The final section is so changed as to exclude the members of Congress and State Legislatures from the relief by writ of *quo warranto*, given in said section to persons who think themselves unlawfully kept out of office. The report was debated in the Senate for an hour, mostly by the Democrats, and then went over until to-morrow so as to give BAYARD, who was absent last week, an opportunity to make a long speech. Agreement was made that the vote should be taken at 3 o'clock.

TAX ON RECEIPTS OF THEATERS.

The Ways and Means Committee had a meeting today, and heard representatives of the theatrical interests from New-York and other points, against the increase of the tax on gross receipts from two to three per cent.

THE ARMY BILL.

The Conference Committee on the Army bill will not meet until next week, owing to the absence of Senator WILSON, whose return is expected on Monday or Tuesday.

BANK CHECKS.

The Committee on Banking and Currency today had under consideration the resolution reported in connection with the gold conspiracy, evidence to prohibit the certification of checks by banks beyond the amount of funds actually on deposit. The Committee find it somewhat difficult to devise legislation which will furnish a complete remedy for this evil, without putting the banks to unnecessary inconvenience.

GRIEVANCES OF PITTSBURG COAL DEALERS.

A delegation of eight members of the Pennsylvania Legislature, headed by JOSEPH WALTON, of Pittsburg, arrived here today, to ask Congress to reimburse the coal dealers of that city \$30,000, which they paid President GARRETT, of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, for widening the spans of the Parkersburg and Belair bridges twenty-five feet, making them 325 feet, and to ask that the spans be further enlarged to a width of 400 feet.

Dispatch to the Associated Press.

TOBACCO DEALERS.

Commissioner DELANO decides that when a manufacturer of tobacco, snuff and cigars has more than one place of business when he carries on portions of his business at separate and distinct places, or in buildings which are not on the same general premises, he must give a bond and pay a special tax for each such case.

THE SOUTHERN TRANSCONTINENTAL ROAD.

The House Committee on the Pacific Railroad today authorized their Chairman to report the Southern Transcontinental Railroad bill. It provides for connection with other roads, placing them all on an equal footing and requiring uniform charges for freight and passengers, making them all practically one road.

THE UNION LEAGUE.

The National Executive Committee of the Union League of America will meet at the Arlington Hotel, Washington, on Tuesday next, at 10 A. M. A general attendance from most of the States is expected, and especially from the South.

NOMINATIONS.

The following nominations were sent in to-day:

GILMAN MARSTON, to be Governor of Idaho; CHAS. C. GROVE, of Alabama, to be Secretary of Utah; JAS. B. MCKEAN, of New-York, to be Chief-Justice of the Supreme Court of Utah; Capt. STEPHEN DECATUR, on the retired list, to be Commodore on the retired list of the navy.