

SYMPATHY WITH CUBA.

The Rights of a Member of the Legislature Violated.

Proposed Rebuilding of All the New York City Piers and Wharves.

Amendment of the Lunacy Laws.

ALBANY, Jan. 21, 1870.

THE CUBAN QUESTION.

A few days ago several resolutions were presented condemnatory of the conduct of the administration with reference to Spain and Cuba. Thomas C. Fields, L. D. Kiernan and J. W. Husted all had something to say on the matter and all in about the same tone. These resolutions having been referred to the Committee on Federal Relations the chairman of that committee, Mr. Thomas J. Lyon, of Orange, made the following able report, which was read yesterday and listened to with great earnestness by the members of the House:—

Whereas the people of the island of Cuba are now and have been for a year or more engaged in an animated struggle for national independence; that they refuse any longer to remain under the despotic rule of Spain, and have resolved to create for themselves a republican form of government, akin to that of the United States; that in pursuance of this purpose the people of Cuba did, on the 10th day of April, 1869, at a meeting of the Cuban Congress, held at Guaymas, the provisional capital of the republic, officially adopt a constitution presented by a constitutional convention of the people, the members whereof were duly elected by said people of Cuba; that the constitution was promulgated and in due form announced to the Cubans and to all civilized nations, thus constituting a government *de facto*. Whereas the government thus established is in its essence a republican government, recognizing the rights of the people to the full limit of constitutional freedom, and embodying in article twenty-one of the constitution the declaration, "All the inhabitants of the republic of Cuba are absolutely free," and in article twenty-eight the following words:—"The House of Representatives shall not abridge the freedom of religion, nor of the press, nor of public meetings, nor of education, nor of petition, nor any inalienable right of the people." Whereas, in defense of this republican government and constitution a standing army has been kept in the field, comprised mainly of natural Cubans; they have been able to maintain nearly two-thirds of the island against the aggressions of the foreign enemy; they are armed and equipped as regular armies are, and commanded by legally commissioned officers of the Cuban republic and are, therefore, for these reasons fully entitled to recognition as belligerents by foreign governments, and more especially by the government of the United States, whose most earnest sympathies should be with all nations struggling for liberation from monarchical despotism.

Resolved, if the Senate concur, That this Legislature, representing the people of the great Empire State of New York, emphatically condemn the course of the administration at Washington in refusing to recognize the independence of Cuba, proclaimed by the government of that island elected by the people thereof, and in abetting the attempts of a European Power to keep them in subjection, by permitting a fleet of gunboats sailing under the Spanish flag to leave the port of New York for the known purpose of being employed against a neighboring people fighting gallantly to obtain that freedom which our fathers won for us from another European Power as relentless then and as truculent towards the people of this country as Spain is to-day towards Cuba.

Resolved, if the Senate concur, That the afore conduct of the administration in regard to Cuba and Spain is unworthy of a great, free government; that it is in violation of the principles of the cherished Monroe doctrine, which is the dearest and wisest part of our foreign policy; that it is in direct opposition to the will of nine-tenths of our people; that it is an infringement upon the principles upon which this government is based, and exhibits a mean and subservient spirit wholly unwarrantable in the conduct of this nation.

Resolved, if the Senate concur, That the Legislature disapprove of the application of the law of Congress of 1818, embraced in the title of the "Neutrality laws," in an illiberal or vindictive manner against any people striving for freedom; and we believe that in the observance of treaty obligations it is not necessary to enforce these laws in the interest of despotism; we believe, further, that it is time for Congress to adopt neutrality laws in consonance with the wishes, the spirit and the dignity of the great American people.

Resolved, if the Senate concur, That we, in the name of the people of this State, do denounce the indifference with which the Administration has received the appeals for relief of American citizens now incarcerated in British prisons on suspicion of having aided the Irish people in their struggle for liberty, believing that every citizen, whether he becomes such by naturalization or birth, is entitled to the full protection of the American government under all circumstances, at home or abroad.

Resolved, That the Senators and Representatives in Congress from this State be instructed to urge upon the President of the United States and the general government to take action immediately upon the subjects embodied in this report, in accordance with its intent and spirit, and that a copy of this report be forwarded to each Representative of the State of New York in the Senate and House of Representatives at Washington.

VIOLATION OF THE RIGHTS OF MEMBERS.

There was a good deal of amusement in the Assembly chamber to-day, arising out of a resolution offered by Mr. Denis Burns, that as an honored member of the Legislature, Henry C. Ray, of Ontario, had been taken bodily and by force under arrest by civil process to the county of Saratoga, the House should take action thereon. It appears that Mr. Ray was subpoenaed as a witness, but refused to attend. He was therefore arrested at his boarding house this morning and carried off to Saratoga county by force of an attachment. This being a violation of the constitution which protects members from arrest while the Legislature is in session, it was contended by Mr. Fields, Mr. Alvord, Mr. Kiernan and Mr. Littlejohn, that the case of Mr. Ray should be investigated and the rights of members vindicated. The resolution, therefore, was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

DUTIES ON THE NECESSARIES OF LIFE.

Majority and minority reports from the special committee appointed to consider the resolutions offered some time ago in favor of abolishing duties on tea, coffee, sugar, coal and salt. Mr. Littlejohn presented a report in favor of the measure. Mr. Alvord, who is largely interested in the salt business, and represents the Syracuse region of salt and Cardiff gania, offered a minority report, terribly exhaustive alike of the subject and the patience of the House, adverse to the abolition of taxes on the necessaries above mentioned. The discussion of the question was made a special order for an evening session on Tuesday next.

REBUILDING THE PIERS AND WHARVES.

A most important and intricate bill for the rebuilding, repairing, &c., of all the piers, wharves, docks, slips and bulkheads of the city of New York. It places the whole business and full control of the piers and wharves in the hands of five commissioners, to be appointed by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen. These commissioners, if the bill should pass in its present form, will be clothed with extraordinary powers, extending not only to the property of the corporation, but to that of private citizens as well. It is unnecessary to add that there are millions of money in this measure. The bill, however, is now in the hands of the Committee of Commerce and Navigation, where it is likely to be pared down a good deal before it is reported. The moneys accruing from the renting and leasing of the wharves are to go to the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund, to whom are also to be referred the contracts for rebuilding, repairing, cleaning, dredging, &c., all the piers, bulkheads and slips on both rivers.

THE LUNACY LAWS.

Mr. Husted, of Westchester, is very busy on a bill to amend the lunacy laws of this State. The suggestion came to the gentleman from an article which appeared in the HERALD some time ago. The bill will provide for the security of the rights of the inmates of asylums, with the privilege of visiting private asylums by the proper authorities.

The Senate were expected to hold an executive session to-day to take up the Governor's appointment, but they did not go into that business. I am assured, however, that the confirmation of the Health Officer of this Port is a certain thing.

NEW YORK LEGISLATURE.

SENATE.

ALBANY, Jan. 21, 1870.

BILLS REPORTED.

By Mr. MURPHY—Adversely to the relief of the town officers of Oppenheim. Agreed to. Also for the relief of the Classical Academy of Poughkeepsie. Also relative to the conveyance of real estate belonging to lunatics.

By Mr. GENET—To extend the Walkill Valley Railroad.

By Mr. CAULDWELL—Relative to the grading of certain avenues in New Utrecht.

By Mr. MORGAN—For the relief from erroneous assessments of taxes in Dutchess and Columbia counties, adversely. Agreed to.

ONEIDA LAKE CANAL.

The State Engineer sent in a reply to the resolution of the Senate with regard to the delay in the completion of the Oneida Lake canal.

BILLS NOTICED.

By Mr. NORTON—To regulate seats and spaces between the same in theatres, halls and places of amusement in New York.

By Mr. CREAMER—Relative to improving streets in New York.

By Mr. WINSLOW—Amending the Watertown School act.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

By Mr. HARDENBURG—Amending the charter of Saugerties; also amending the charter of the Ulster County Savings Bank.

By Mr. GENET—Amending a railroad in 125th street and in other streets and avenues in New York.

By Mr. BANKS—Providing a police force for the city and county of Albany.

By Mr. CAULDWELL—Amending the act allowing certain towns in Westchester county to improve highways; also regulating railroad freights.

By Mr. TWEED—For the relief of James Saxon, of New York.

By Mr. KENNEDY—Relative to a bridge over the Oswego river, between Lyssander and Schroepel.

By Mr. WOOD—Amending the Life Insurance Companies act.

By Mr. WOODIN—Amending the charter of Auburn.

By Mr. CHAPMAN—Relative to the Binghamton Water Works.

BILLS PASSED.

Incorporating the Board of Missions of the Protestant Episcopal Church Diocese; incorporating the trustees of the Fund to Support Infirm Clergymen of the Protestant Episcopal Church Diocese of Albany; amending the charter of the New York City Mission and Tract Society; extending time for the collection of taxes.

BILLS ORDERED TO A THIRD READING.

Amending the general banking law; for the relief of the Geneva Classical and Union School; amending the New York and Long Island bridge law; to extend time for the collection of excise fees in the Metropolitan district. The latter bill was reported to the Senate without amendment.

Mr. MURPHY moved to recommit it to the Committee of the Whole, which was carried, and the Senate went into committee again.

On motion of Mr. MURPHY the time for the collection of excise fees was extended to March 1. It was then reported to the Senate and ordered to a third reading.

Adjourned till Monday evening.

ASSEMBLY.

ALBANY, Jan. 21, 1870.

The House concurred in the Senate amendment to the Utica Mechanics' Association bill, and made another amendment and sent it back to the Senate for concurrence.

BILLS REPORTED.

By Mr. CULLEN—Relative to the American Baptist Union; also for the relief of Simeon Sweet; also relative to the Hebrew Benevolent Society of New York; also relative to the city of Buffalo and the new insane asylum.

By Mr. BERGEN—Preventing the use of old barrels for repacking sugar, flour and meal; also amending the new Capitol act.

By Mr. HUESTED—Amending the laws of 1869 affecting the county of Otsego.

By Mr. MURPHY—Relative to the Militia bill.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

By Mr. TIGHE—For the relief of Ward, Butler and others.

By Mr. W. D. MURPHY—Providing for payment of wages to railroad employes within a special time.

By Mr. ELY—Extending the time for collecting taxes in Broome county.

By Mr. PATRICK—For the relief of Thomas Noyes and others.

By Mr. ALLABEN—Authorizing the Rondout and Oswego Railroad to increase its rate of fare.

By Mr. BAMBER—Relative to persons residing on Indian lands.

By Mr. EMPIE—Relative to the Lake, River and Railroad Improvement Company of the New York Wilderness.

By Mr. CULLEN—Relative to the Brooklyn schools.

By Mr. WRIGHT—Amending the charter of Rochester.

By Mr. KIERNAN—To improve the New York water front.

By Mr. LOWRY—Legitimizing certain persons.

By Mr. JARRED—For the relief of E. B. Russell.

By Mr. LITTLEJOHN—Exempting certain property of the Oswego Fire Department from taxation; also to facilitate the construction of the Lake Ontario shore Railroad.

By Mr. BALDWIN—Relative to the custody of money from the sale of certain lands in Hempstead.

By Mr. DAVIS—Fixing the Webster plank road tolls.

By Mr. DECKER—Amending the Fire Insurance act.

By Mr. AINSWORTH—Amending the Saratoga Springs town charter.

By Mr. COON—To punish certain offences committed on canals.

By Mr. LA MORSE—Repealing certain provisions relative to town elections.

By Mr. HASBROCK—Amending the Walkill Valley Railroad charter.

By Mr. HUESTED—Relative to the Yonkers Cemetery.

By Mr. FREAR—Amending the Foreign Insurance act.

By Mr. CAMPBELL—Relative to New York police justices.

RESOLUTIONS.

By Mr. HUESTED—Providing for amending the State constitution relative to bribery at elections, &c. Laid over.

By Mr. BURNS—That the Commerce Committee inquire what legislation is necessary to prevent the New Jersey Railroad from encroaching on New York harbor.

Mr. HASBROCK moved that the House adjourn to-day until Monday evening.

Mr. FIELDS moved to insert Tuesday morning.

Mr. KIERNAN moved to lay it on the table, which was carried.

By Mr. BURNS—That the Comptroller of Brooklyn report to this House whether registered bonds have been issued, and, if not, why. Laid over.

Mr. KIERNAN moved that the Committee on Grievances inquire into the arrest of Mr. Ray, member from Ontario county, as a witness and his being taken to Saratoga, in violation of the rights of this House. Adopted.

THE TARIFF QUESTION.

Mr. LITTLEJOHN had consent to report from the majority of the Select Committee in favor of the resolutions for the removal or reduction of the duties on tea, coffee, sugar, railroad iron, pig iron, coal and salt.

Mr. ALVORD, from the minority, submitted a written report, which he read, reciting the provisions of all the tariff measures in the world, and detailing their effect upon the industry and welfare of the different people. He compares those of Europe with ours, and claims that ours is greatly more advantageous to the people. He was, therefore, in favor of a tariff for home production, and was strongly opposed to free trade. His report was concluded with resolutions setting forth his own views.

Mr. LITTLEJOHN, after stating that the committee was entirely unaware that they were expected to take up the whole tariff question, and also unaware that the gentleman from Onondaga county intended to make so elaborate a report, moved that the subject be made the special order for Tuesday evening next. Agreed to.

THE PEABODY FUNERAL COMMITTEE.

Mr. MITCHELL moved for the reconsideration of the resolutions of yesterday to appoint a committee to attend the Peabody funeral, said committee to defray the expenses themselves, which was carried.

Mr. WHITE moved to strike out the clause "requiring no expense to the State."

Mr. ALVORD hoped the whole subject would be laid on the table. He would not be second to any one in honoring the memory of this man, but he could see no reason for the State of New York taking any part in the contemplated ceremonies. She had not received one cent of his bounty; his benefactions had been sectional, local, not national. He therefore moved to lay the resolution on the table, which was carried by a vote of 58 to 45.

The House then adjourned till to-morrow morning.