

WASHINGTON.

General Banks' Resolutions on Cuban Neutrality Introduced in the House.

The New York Contested Election Case—General Van Wyck Admitted to His Seat—Sales of Cadetships—Numerous Cases Before the Committee.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16, 1870.

General Banks' Resolutions Enforcing Neutrality in Cuban Affairs.

General Banks introduced in the House to-day for reference to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, of which he is chairman, resolutions similar in character to that which I referred to in my despatch day before yesterday in relation to Cuba. The resolutions do not go as far in words as was contemplated by General Banks at the time I sent you that despatch, but their effects, when analyzed, seem to be the same. Instead of authorizing, in so many words, the President to issue a proclamation of neutrality as was first designed, the President may declare and maintain a strictly impartial neutrality, which is considered to mean the same as if the President had been directed to issue a proclamation. To-morrow General Banks will bring his resolution before the committee, and if he can get them to endorse it will report it back to the House and press its passage forthwith.

Conclusion of the Busted Case.

The House Committee on the Judiciary took definite action to-day on the case of Judge Busted, of the District Court of Alabama. The charges against him, preferred by Henry C. Sample, were five in number, with seventeen specifications. All voted "no" on fourteen of them, and on the remaining three only Messrs. Eldridge and Kerr voted to sustain them. On Robert H. Smith's charges and specifications, twenty in number, there was a unanimous vote against them. The committee therefore resolved there was no evidence to require or justify impeachment, and so report to the House and ask to be discharged from further consideration of the subject. The case has been pending about two years and much evidence has been taken concerning it. Judge Busted is now in Washington.

Guests at the President's State Dinner.

The following named guests were present at the state dinner at the Executive Mansion this evening:—At one end of the table were Mrs. Ketcham, Mr. Lash and Mr. Packer, and at the other Mr. Jesse R. Grant, Mr. Root and Mr. Stokes. On one side of the table were Mr. Sargent, Mrs. Schofield, Mr. C. O. Washburn, Mr. Schenck, Mrs. Cragin, Senator Tipton, Senator Ramsey, Mrs. Grant, Senator Harlan, Mrs. Tipton, Senator Boreman, Lieutenant General Sherman, Mrs. Sargent, Mr. Schofield, Mr. McCarthy. On the other side of the table were Mrs. McCarthy, Mr. Van Aiken, Mr. Stevenson, Mrs. E. F. Butler, Senator Morrill, Senator Buckingham, Mrs. Harlan, the President, Mrs. Morrill, Senator Cragin, Mr. B. F. Butler, Mrs. Van Aiken, Mr. Williams, Mr. Ketcham, Mrs. Stevenson.

South American Letter Postage.

The postage chargeable upon correspondence posted in the United States and addressed to Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador and Chile, respectively, has been reduced to the following amounts, prepayment compulsory, to take effect immediately—viz., on letters, twenty-two cents per each half ounce or under; on newspapers, four cents each if not exceeding four ounces, and four cents additional for every excess of four ounces, and on books, packets and samples of merchandise, ten cents per each four ounces or fraction thereof.

Meeting of the National Council of the Union League.

The National Executive Committee of the Union League of America met in this city at noon to-day at Willard's Hotel. A committee made a report favoring a radical change in the ritual of the order; in fact, wiping out the whole Union League as it now exists and building up of a new fraternity. On motion ex-Governor William A. Newell, of New Jersey, was unanimously elected chairman for the year. The National Council (the parent body) met at three o'clock this afternoon. The Business Committee reported a series of resolutions congratulating the country for the success of the fifteenth amendment, insisting on a practical exercise of equal rights, and the following, which was received with tremendous applause:—

Resolved, That the National Council of the Union League of America deeply sympathize with the struggling patriots of Cuba in the war in which for more than a year they have struggled to throw off the yoke of Spanish despotism and to secure for themselves the boon of liberty and independence; that in view of the heroism, fortitude and perseverance with which they have prosecuted the war against the power of the Spanish government, and because they have further testified their devotion to liberty by the abolition of slavery throughout the island; therefore

Resolved, That we respectfully urge upon Congress to recognize the belligerent rights of Cuba as soon as they shall have shown themselves to have established a permanent government.

The Councils throughout the country were then instructed to appropriately celebrate the ratification of the fifteenth amendment. The National Council then adjourned until December.

Pacific Railroad Subsidies.

In reply to a resolution of the Senate, the President has transmitted to that body a copy of a letter addressed to him on the 27th ult. by the Secretary of the Interior touching the action of the department on the claim of the Central branch of the Union Pacific Railroad Company to receive lands and bonds from the United States in aid of the construction of its road. The Secretary says the application is complicated by the fact that the company had presented a similar one to his predecessor before the completion of the hundred miles of the road which the company was assigned to build and for which the original subsidy had been granted. Both the Attorney General and the Secretary of the Interior are of the opinion that if the legislation of 1863 had not been adopted, by which the Union Pacific Railroad Company, Eastern Division, was authorized to change its route, and under which the route was actually changed from the valley of the Republican Fork to that of Smoky Hill, the Central branch would, upon reaching the original point of contemplated junction in the Republican Valley, have been entitled to proceed to construct a road up that valley if the Eastern Division had failed to meet them there, and would have been entitled to the benefits of section sixteen, of the act of July, 2, 1864.

Sales of Cadetships—Damning Testimony Against an Ex-Member—Carpet-Baggers Monopolizing the Business.

The Military Committee of the House continued to-day the investigation of the subject of improper disposition of cadetships. The principal case examined to-day was that of S. Newton Pettis, late member of Congress from the Twentieth Pennsylvania district. Three witnesses were examined, namely, Major Bloss, editor of the Titusville *Herald*; Mr. White and Mr. Derrickson, and their testimony, if true, is of a very damaging character. According to their evidence, when the nominating convention met in Franklin, and Mr. Pettis was chosen as the candidate, Major Bloss had an interview with Pettis and offered \$500 to the latter on the condition that he would give the cadetship to which he was entitled to a son of Mr. Bishop, of Titusville, a man interested to some extent in the oil business. Mr. Pettis, they allege in their testimony, accepted the offer without any qualification, promising to make the appointment in case he should get elected. It seems that Major Bloss had been consulted on the subject by Mr. Bishop, Sr., before the meeting of the nominating convention was held, and had been instructed to make the offer not merely to Mr. Pettis, but to the person, whosoever it might be, who succeeded in obtaining the nomination. After concluding with Pettis Major Bloss went back to Titusville and reported progress to Mr. Bishop. Subsequently Mr. Pettis got elected, and the proposition was renewed. Mr. Pettis then explained that he had promised the cadetship to another party before Bloss' offer, and that so soon as he might succeed in putting off party number one he would conclude the bargain with party number two. The arrangement remained in suspense for some time, when at last Mr. Derrickson, a friend of Pettis, came to Mr. Bishop's friend, Major Bloss, and stated that he was authorized to close the bargain. Mr. Derrickson explained to Bloss that Pettis had borrowed \$-50 from him (Derrickson) for election purposes, and that Pettis was willing to give Bishop's son the cadetship if Bishop would pay \$200 more than originally proposed, or \$400 in all; at the same time Derrickson showed a note of Pettis' promising to pay Derrickson \$350, and containing an endorsement by Pettis to the effect that—"The within note shall be cancelled when the money is paid by Mr. Bishop." Bloss accepted the proposition for Bishop to pay \$300, and the bargain was closed. After the consummation of this arrangement it seems that Pettis was harassed by the first party to whom he had promised to give the cadetship, and finally to get rid of the thing he (Pettis) wrote to this party, number one, expressing regret that he could not keep his promise, and explaining that pecuniary embarrassments had obliged

him to dispose of the appointment to Mr. Bishop. The writing of this injudicious letter is said to have been the cause of the discovery of the improper transaction. Party number one, being deceived at Pettis' going back on his word, showed the letter to some of his friends; the matter got talked about, and finally reached the ears of the people, who thought it their duty to communicate it to Congress. Now the witnesses examined to-day do not hesitate to state that they are not on friendly terms with Mr. Pettis, and it may be that they have been stimulated by hostility to the ex-member in making the above statements. I do not wish, therefore, to express the opinion that Mr. Pettis is guilty of the charges; I only give what I have heard was the testimony, without note or comment for or against the accused. The investigating committee find that the field of their investigations is daily becoming enlarged. Fresh cases are reported every day, and the probability seems to be that the labor of the committee will not soon reach a close. At present there are some ten cases reported—two or three from Louisiana, two from South Carolina, three or four from Pennsylvania, and the rest from other States. The carpet-baggers thus far seem to monopolize a lion's share of the traffic.