

## Congress—The Shipping Bill and the Cuban Question.

The further consideration of the Legislative Appropriation bill was the main business of the Senate yesterday. An hour's debate was held on a motion to insert four hundred and fifty thousand dollars for the completion of the Louisville Canal, amended by another motion to insert the whole Harbor and River Appropriation bill. When it is remembered that the bill under consideration is to make appropriations for paying the expenses of Congress, the President, the judiciary and the various departmental branches of the government, it will be seen how out of place an appropriation for a canal would be in it, and it will also be seen how senselessly the Senate fritters away valuable time. The motion was finally withdrawn. The report of the Conference Committee on the disagreeing amendments of the two houses to the Fifteenth Amendment bill was then discussed until adjournment, and thus more time was frittered away by the Senate. In fact, the only effective part of the whole day's proceedings yesterday was a hailstorm, which pattered with much noise and force on the roof and compelled Mr. Drake to cease speaking for at least five minutes.

The day was a rather important one in the House. Mr. Lynch's bill to revive the shipping interest was again thoroughly debated and a call for the main question was defeated by a vote of 85 to 97—a severe blow to the bill. The morning hour having expired, however, it went over until to-day, when the final vote will be taken, and unless the opinions of some of the members undergo a change in the meantime it will be formally defeated. The friends of the bill are still hopeful, however. The defeat of the bill, if it be defeated, is due, we hope, only to the objections members may have to Mr. Lynch's particular way of reviving American shipping, and not to any indifference on so important a subject. Some measure of the kind should be passed, whether favoring subsidies, drawbacks or extension of the registry privileges. The Diplomatic Appropriation bill was taken up, and called forth one of the most energetic debates that has occurred in Congress for many days. A motion was made to omit Santiago de Cuba from the list of consulates, and Mr. Voorhees, of Indiana, made such a strong speech in favor of a more vigorous policy against Spain and for the protection of American citizens in Cuba that he roused the House into enthusiasm on the subject, and both sides almost clamored for governmental aid to the struggling insurgents. General Banks announced that his Committee on Foreign Affairs would be willing and glad to present a bill at once granting belligerent rights to the Cubans, but the cooler and more methodical rules of the House intervened and the enthusiasm expended itself. The proposition to omit a consulate at Santiago was then rejected, and the Appropriation bill, on being reported to the House, was passed.