

WASHINGTON

Rejection of the Alabama Claims Treaty by the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Nomination of General Baldy Smith to be Consul General at Havana.

The New York County Records Demanded of the Clerk by the Committee on Election Frauds.

An Interesting Imbroglio Looming Up.

Passage of the Banking Bill in the House.

Adoption of Mr. Butler's Amendment to the Army Appropriation Bill.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18, 1892.

The Alabama Claims and Naturalization Treaties.

The Senate Committee on Foreign Relations held a special meeting to-day to consider definitely the terms of the Alabama treaty. After some debate they concluded unanimously to instruct the chairman, Mr. Sumner, to draw up a report stating the grounds of their refusal to accept the terms of the treaty and to propose its rejection by the Senate. Each member had come prepared to decide upon this condition, and the only matter of discussion was whether to report this session or the next. It was finally determined to report before the end of the present session. The committee agreed that the treaty failed to fulfill its legitimate purpose and was altogether irregular in being made to decide claims other than those arising purely out of the action of the Confederate privateer built in a British port and sent from there to prey on American commerce. They based the objection to its character wholly on this ground. They maintain that the case of the Alabama is purely specific and cannot be legally or otherwise made to cover any other extraneous matter in other international issues. To sum up the entire feeling of the committee, it is simply expressed in the idea that the Alabama claims, and these alone, must be the subject of consideration before any others can be entertained.

The committee also agreed to recommend to the favorable action of the Senate the Naturalization treaty made with England. Also the treaty leaving to the government of Switzerland the arbitration of the San Juan dispute between the United States and Great Britain.

The New York Post Office—The Postal Telegraph Bill.

The Senate Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads held a meeting to-day, and agreed, among other things, to ask to be discharged from the further consideration of the bill to provide for the erection of a building for a Post Office and United States courts in the city of New York. In other words, nothing is to be done in the matter this session. The committee also agreed to request being discharged from the further consideration of the bill to encourage and facilitate telegraphic communication between this country and Europe. The Postal Telegraph bill will be favorably reported from next meeting of the committee.

Senator McKim's bill authorizing the Postmaster General to contract with the New York and Antwerp Mail Steamship Company for the transportation of the United States mail was reported from the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads to-day, with amendments, striking out the provisions that the company shall have the right to terminate the contract by giving six months' notice; that the receipts from all sources to the company shall justify an increased service of two in place of one departure a fortnight; that a fine shall be imposed for each day's delay over the regular voyage of fourteen days, and that the steamships made use of shall be built in the United States.

The Alleged New York Election Frauds—County Clerk Loew Required to Produce the Records in His Office.

To-day County Clerk Loew applied to the Committee on the New York Election Frauds to have a decision in his case, desiring to return to New York on important business. He informed the committee that he was anxious to learn what they intended to do in regard to his refusal to bring to Washington the court records in his possession as *ex officio* Clerk of the Supreme Court. Judge Lawrence sent him the following written reply:—

The Committee on Alleged New York Election Frauds directs me to say that it insists upon the production by you of the papers required by its subpoena, but that for any purpose other than this your presence is not now required. The future action of the committee, if you persist in refusing to obey its summons, will depend upon the business before the House.

Mr. Loew intends to return to New York to-morrow evening, and has determined not to obey the command of the investigating committee, as to do so would involve a violation of his oath of office as County Clerk of New York. The action of the committee, therefore, is looked for with interest by the New York members here.

General Grant and the Tenure of Office Act.
General Grant's opinion of the Tenure of Office Act is very plainly indicated in a remark he made a few days ago. When conversing with some friends, one or two of whom were not only republicans in good standing, but members of Congress, "That law," said the General, "seems to me to have been intended to work something like a curb bit on a fractious horse; but if you put such a bit on a kind horse you'll make him kick, whether he had the habit before or not."

Another Candidate for Cabinet Honors.

A petition is on its travels through both houses of Congress for presentation to General Grant recommending Senator Conness, of California, to a place in Grant's Cabinet. The name of Senator Stewart heads the list, and is followed by five or six other names hailing from the far West. Conness desires to be Secretary of the Interior. It would be exactly in his line, and could by skillful manipulation be made a richer place than any California can boast of. Senator Sumner, on being presented with the petition to receive his distinguished autograph, exclaimed in his deep gruff voice, "What barbarians attempt is this that Conness is about to make to break into Grant's Cabinet?" and, not appreciating the style of the thing, withheld the countenance of his signature.

The New York Collectors—The Radicals Already Stirring.

Messrs. Fenton, Fremont, Greeley and a number of others, principally New Yorkers, have arranged for a meeting here within a day or two. The object of the gathering is understood to be for the purpose of bringing a strong pressure upon General Grant to induce him to appoint a certain gentleman to the position of Collector of the Port of New York. All the party have not yet arrived, but it is believed that the matter has already been broached to General Grant, with what success has not yet transpired.

Refusal of the President to Grant a Pardon to Knight.

Later revelations in regard to the movement to obtain a pardon for Colonel Knight, of New York, disclose the fact that the Attorney General did make a report on the case before the papers were returned to the President. The substance of his report is that the pardon of the applicant at this time was deemed by him inadvisable. The President, there-

fore, refused of the application to-day by returning it to the office of the Attorney General with his refusal to grant the pardon.

Government Aid to the Northern Pacific Railroad.

A majority of the Senate Committee on Pacific Railroads are preparing a report on the bill granting aid to the Northern Pacific and other railroads, giving the considerations which induced them to adopt the policy of aiding at the present time, with government credit, the construction of additional lines of trunk railroads and vindicating the provisions of the bill. It was not understood in the committee that the bill should be presented with a report, and the majority would not now present one but for the fact that the views of the minority first appeared in the newspapers and afterwards in the Senate.

Public Lands in Aid of Iowa Railroads.

The Commissioner of the General Land Office has transmitted to the Governor of Iowa, land officers and railroad companies twenty-one certified transcripts of land, embracing the aggregate of 93,558 acres, as lands granted by the acts of Congress of May 15, 1856, and June 21, 1864, to aid in the construction of the Burlington and Missouri Railroad.

Nominations by the President.

The President nominated to the Senate to-day General William F. Smith, to be Consul General at Havana; Horatio Fox, to be Consul at Trinidad de Cuba; Edward W. Wynkoop, to be Agent for the Indians in New Mexico, and William A. Fowler, to be Pension Agent at Brooklyn, N. Y.

Confirmations by the Senate.

The Senate in executive session to-day confirmed the following nominations:—
Alexander R. Banks, of Kansas, Agent for the Indians in Upper Arkansas, vice Wynkoop, resigned.
Horatio Fox, of Maine, Consul at Trinidad de Cuba, vice Cayada, resigned.
Isaac Goss, Assessor of Internal Revenue for the Eighth district of Ohio, vice Milton W. Warden, deceased.

Preparing to Vacate the White House.

The President and his family will vacate the White House on the 2d of March and will probably leave Washington on the 5th of that month.

The city is rapidly filling up with visitors to attend the inauguration, all of whom seem to be attracted to the army headquarters and the Executive Mansion as the first places of interest.

General Grant's Visitors.

Among the callers on General Grant this morning were Hon. Carl Schurz, of Missouri, and ex-Governor Fenton, of New York.

The Salem (Mass.) Postmaster.

On inquiring at the Post Office Department it was ascertained that the statement that W. H. Sander, Postmaster at Salem, Mass., had absconded as a defaulter, is untrue. He has been in Washington four weeks, and to-day received a certificate of the adjustment of his accounts, showing a small balance in his favor.

Singular Claim of a New England Corporation.

There is a singular claim now pending before the House Military Committee. Some time ago a bill was introduced "for the defence of the Northeastern frontier." Its provisions were unknown; but when it came to be examined it proved to be a bill for the benefit of the Atlantic and Northeastern Railroad Company, amounting to nearly \$1,000,000. The claim for this large amount is trumped up in this wise:—During the Revolutionary war the State of Massachusetts, which at that time embraced both Maine and Massachusetts, loaned the general government some \$300,000 or \$400,000. The money was refunded long ago, and the claim now pending is for interest accruing on the original amount, said to be due Massachusetts and Maine. Those States have for some reason turned the thing over to the railroad company already named, and it is this company that is now prosecuting the claim. They have been represented here by Governor Dennison, of Ohio, and Congressman Rice, of Massachusetts, who have succeeded in lobbying it through the committee, a majority of which agreed to-day to report favorably on the claim. General Pike, a member of the committee, will present a minority report opposing the claim. General Pike takes the ground that the government should not pay interest on the money loaned by the States for carrying on the Revolutionary war, because no appropriation was made for the payment of anything but the principal. To establish a precedent of this kind would open the door for claims for "interest on the money loaned the government by the States during the late war—amounting to millions of dollars—as well as interest upon the claims of citizens which have been before the departments for years," and which would amount to a very large sum. The whole thing seems to be a scheme on the part of this railroad company to extract a large sum of money from the Treasury on a claim that would not obtain a standing in any court.

The Judiciary Appropriation Exhausted.

The appropriation on account of the judiciary having been exhausted, several requisitions made upon the Treasury department by marshals of the United States Court for payment of expenses of the courts, &c., have been refused.

Liabilities of Tobacco Dealers.

Some of the tobacco dealers and manufacturers who have unstamped fine cut and chewing tobacco on hand, being under the impression that they are liable to penalties for not having heretofore stamped these supplies, it may be of interest to state that the law requires only that such fine cut and chewing tobacco be not sold or offered for sale without being stamped. The fact of having a supply on hand without stamps affixed, if it is not sold or offered for sale, does not make the holders liable under the law to fine or other penalty.

Customs Receipts.

The customs receipts from February 8 to February 13, inclusive, are as follows:—Boston, \$378,385; New York, \$3,341,000; Philadelphia, \$102,430; Baltimore, \$137,549; New Orleans, from February 1 to February 8, inclusive, \$108,817, and at San Francisco, from January 18 to January 23, inclusive, \$158,228. Total, \$4,426,410.

Disbursements During the Month.

The disbursements on account of the different departments of the government for the present month have been comparatively very light; that on account of the Union Pacific Railroad made yesterday, in the nature of an issue of bonds amounting to \$120,000, being the heaviest disbursement of the month. According to present indications, even with an average amount of receipts from customs, internal revenue and miscellaneous sources, the next monthly statement will show a considerable reduction of the public debt.

United States Supreme Court.

The following cases were before the Supreme Court to-day:—

No. 88. Charles Horismeth, Appellant, vs. Washington Gaslight Company.—This cause was argued by Mr. Brent, of counsel for the appellant, and by Mr. Webb for the appellees.

No. 87. The United States, Appellant, vs. The Schooner Diana.—This cause was argued by Assistant Attorney General Ashton, of counsel for the appellant. No counsel appeared for the appellees.

No. 86. Mrs. Grant, Appellant, vs. The United States.—This cause was argued by Mr. Goodrick, of counsel for the appellant, and by Assistant Attorney General Diekey for the appellees.

How the Senate Finance Committee Does It.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16, 1892.

This sage committee refers every proposition relating to national banks to Senator Cattell for a special report. He knows all about national banks, of course he does, because he is president of a very large one. He knows just what they want and wants to have them have it. For that reason he is just the man to whom the matter ought not to be referred. But such is the power of habit, prestige or what not that Senator and President Cattell insists the committee cannot, without a disrespect which they would not for a nation's welfare commit, give the matter to any other Senator.

The result is plain. It has been plain to observers for two years that the Senate Finance Committee is the close ally of the national banks. It protects their interests by delays, by amendments, by subterfuges, seeming to yield and yielding nothing. This is illustrated anew, in the House bill to compel national banks to give reports of their securities and deposits at the call of the Comptroller of the Currency. Under the present law the national banks loan out all the reserve on call and use their securities in various ways, getting them all in for a quarterly report. The House bill aims to compel them to keep their reserve always on hand and to comply with the banking law by making them liable to be called on at any time for a sworn statement.

The law is one so manifestly just and important that the Senatorial bank president does not dare to report against it; but he tries to make it appear that the Senate has done something by making the banks report five times a year instead of four, giving them five days' notice in which to prepare. This simply enables the banks to evade the law just as now.

with just a little more risk and expense; and this is just what Cattell wants.

Just so, too, in the bill forbidding banks to certify checks for amounts above those on deposit to the credit of the person drawing them. He is preparing an amendment to the bill, worded so as to seem to correct and still allow the evil. Just so, probably, he will manipulate the House bill on sales of gold and other matters.

But there are Senators who are getting thoroughly tired of seeing the Treasury of the United States in league with a ring of bankers and brokers in New York and Philadelphia, sweeping up money by the million by various sharp practices, which, in plain language, are but robberies of the people. Senators are getting weary of this, we say, and more weary of seeing the Finance Committee playing into the hands of these rings. Such Senators will oppose these modifications of important bills and insist on distinct, unequivocal laws. We trust they will prevail.

Speaker Colfax's Resignation.

[Washington (Feb. 17) correspondence of the Boston Advertiser.]
Speaker Colfax will resign his place in the House as soon as the Journal has been read on Wednesday, the 2d of March, and leave that body to elect a new Speaker for twenty-four hours. He does this because he is required to be in the Senate chamber on the 4th of March, ten or fifteen minutes before the expiration of the present Congress, in order to take the oath of office as Vice-President. It is believed that the House will give Mr. Pomeroy, of New York, the honor of serving one day as Speaker. His term expires with this Congress, and he is popular with his associates.

Vice President Colfax's Appointment.

[From the Springfield Republican, Feb. 18.]
Among the Cabinet reports is that General Grant has tendered one appointment to Mr. Colfax, and that the latter names his friend, Mr. John B. DeForest, of Indiana, the present public printer. If the first half of the story is true, doubtless the latter is. Mr. DeForest is the Vice President's "next friend," and has been his "godfather" in politics and in personal life ever since he was a boy, almost.