

# Indiana American.

C. H. BINGHAM, Editor.

—BROOKVILLE—

Friday Morning, February 5, 1869.

## The Suffrage Amendment.

The House of Representatives adopted, on Saturday, by the requisite two-thirds vote, a resolution proposing to the Legislatures of the several States the following article amending the Constitution:

ARTICLE.—SECTION 1. The right of any citizen of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State, by reason of race or color, or previous condition of any citizen or any class of citizens of the United States.

SEC. 2. The Congress shall have power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

Amendments were offered which would change this to a provision establishing universal suffrage, but these were rejected by strong votes. One was by Mr. Bingham, to amend the first section so as to make it read as follows:

No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge or deny to any male citizen of the United States, of sound mind, and twenty one years of age or upwards, the equal exercise, subject to such registration laws as the State may exact, of the elective franchise at all elections in the State wherein he shall have actually resided for a period of one year next preceding such election, except such of said citizens as shall engage in rebellion or insurrection, or who may have been or shall be convicted of treason or other infamous crime.

Another, by Mr. Shellabarger, known as the Ohio Amendment, the Ohio Republican delegation, with the sole exception of Mr. Bingham, having decided upon it, is as follows:

No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge or deny to any male citizen of the United States, of the age of 21 years or over, and who is of sound mind, an equal vote at all elections in the State, in which he shall have his actual residence, such right to vote, and be under such regulations as shall be prescribed by law, except such as have engaged or may hereafter engage in insurrection or rebellion against the United States, and to such as shall be duly convicted of infamous crime.

The following are the proceedings as announced by telegram:

Mr. Boutwell then moved the previous question, which was seconded. The question was first taken on Shellabarger's amendment, and it was rejected—yeas 61, nays 127.

Yea—Messrs. Ashley, of Nevada, Baldwin, Beatty, Beaman, Benton, Bates, Bowen, Broomall, Buckland, Cade, Cliff, Cobb, Coburn, Callum, Cook, Davies, Delano, Eley, Eggleston, Elliott, French, Gravely, Hamilton, Hawkins, Hooper, Hubbard, of Iows, Judd, Julian, Kelley, Kelsey, Lawrence, of Pennsylvania, Lawrancs of Ohio, Loan, Logan, Maynard, Mullins, Newham, Norris, Orth, Paine, Plants, Pulsley, Price, Prince, Sawyer, Schenck, Sefton, Shanks, Shellabarger, Starkweather, Stokes, Sypher, Twichell, VanHorn, of Missouri, Ward, Washburn, of Wisconsin, Washburn, of Indiana, Washburn, of Massachusetts, Walker, Whittemore and Williams.

Nay—Messrs. Allison, Archer, Arnell, Ashley, of Ohio, Axtell, Bailey, Baker, Bates, Bannon, Beck, Benjamin, Blaine, Blair, Boutwell, Boyden, Boyer, Broomall, Brooks, Burr, Butler, of Massachusetts, Callis, Carr, Chandler, Churchill, Clark, of Kansas, Cook, Corley, Covode, Dewes, Dickey, Dodge, Donnelly, Driggs, Edwards, Eldridge, Elliot, of Mass., Ferris, Ferry, Field, Fox, Garfield, Guz, Gallaudet, Goss, Green, Griswold, Grover, Haight, Halsey, Harding, Haughey, Heaton, Higby, Hopkins, Hotchkiss, Hubbard of New York, Humphrey, Hunter, Jenckes, Johnson, Jones of North Carolina, Jones of Kentucky, Kerr, Ketchum, Knott, Kountz, Ladd, Lash, Lincoln, Lyon, Loughridge, Marshall, Marvin, McCormick, McCullough, McKee, Mercur, Miller, Moore, Morrill, Mangen, Myers, Newcomb, Niblack, Nicholson, Nino, O'Neil, Perkins, Porter, Pierce, Pike, Pike, Pollard, Pruyne, Randall, Raum, Robertson, Roots, Ross, Sigrave, Smith, Spalding, Stewart, Stone, Stover, Taber, Taylor, Thomas, Taft, Trimble of Tennessee, Trowbridge, Upson, Van Aernam, Van Auken, Van Horn of New York, Van Trump, Van Wyck, Whittemore, Wilson of Ohio, Wilson of Pennsylvania, Windom, Woolbridge, Woodward and Young.

Mr. Bingham's amendment was also rejected—yeas 26, nays 158.

The Democrats all voted for the amendment in the first instance, but subsequently many of them changed their votes to the negative.

The question recurring on the original proposition, the yeas and nays were taken on ordering the joint resolution engrossed and read the third time, and it was ordered—yeas 144, nays 45.

The resolution was then passed by the necessary two-thirds—yeas 153, nays 42. The Speaker, as a member of the House, voted in the affirmative.

The Cincinnati Gazette concludes an editorial on this subject:

Thus the action is a decided rejection of the principle of establishing equal male suffrage by the Constitution, and is instead a partial restriction upon the power of the States to disfranchise, being as was argued on one side, and admitted on the other, a recognition of the power of each State to disfranchise for other causes. This result is the more remarkable from the fact that the principle of the proposed amendment suffered in the debate, and that its main advocate, Mr. Boutwell, had to admit that it would permit any State to establish property or educational or religious qualifications, and that by the first two of these the mass of the blacks might be as effectually excluded as by qualifications of race or color, and that to meet this he proposed to add to the amendment the following:

"Nor shall educational attainments or the possession or ownership of property ever be made a test of the right of any citizen to vote."

This still recognized the power of each

State to disfranchise citizens by any rule of disqualifications which did not make either race or color or want of property or education a cause. Mr. Boutwell's addition to his amendment was rejected. It would not have perfected the provision; for still it would have been liable to the objection that the forbidding of the States to disfranchise for specified things admitted their power to disfranchise for all other things; and indeed it would take a very long list of exceptions to establish universal suffrage in that mode.

The proposed amendment admits the power of each State to disfranchise citizens by any other rule of qualifications than those of race and color. No recognition of the power of a State to disqualify citizens was ever made in the Constitution until it was done by the 14th Amendment, and we have always regarded it as a vicious principle in that provision. The tenor of the debate, as well as the votes on the amendments, show that the adoption of this proposed amendment is a decided rejection of the principle of establishing by the Constitution of universal male suffrage of citizens not disfranchised by crime, and that there was an equally decided disposition to admit in each State the right to regulate the suffrage by any other rule of qualification except those of race and color.

There are now 60 pupils in attendance, a greater number than ever before—and constantly increasing. Twenty five of these are boarding pupils, the ample buildings of the Seminary affording fine accommodations for those at a distance. The rooms are all commodious, well lit and warmed from a furnace, and neatly furnished.

The school rooms, recitation rooms, &c., are well arranged. There are four pianos in different rooms, affording ample facilities for practice, while a fine set of instruments afford the philosophical and astronomical classes conveniences for study. The fine grounds around the building, and its retired and commanding location, render it peculiarly pleasant in summer.

The Faculty at present is as follows:

Rev. R. B. Abbott, A. M., Principal—Mathematics and Ancient Languages. Rev. F. T. Brown, D. D.—Evidence of Christianity and Logic. Miss Louisa L. Smith, Vice Principal—Mental and Moral Philosophy and English Literature. Miss Corena M. Leech—Natural Sciences, Rhetoric and History. Miss Granier—French Language and Literature. Miss Kate T. Turner—Drawing and Painting. Prof. Ludwig Harsmen—Teacher of Music. Miss Laura Abbott—Assistant Music Teacher.

On Friday, in the House, a bill providing for the better security of life and property from accidents, on account of coal oil, was passed. A bill was passed closing the land system in States where there are less than 5,000 acres of public land. The proposed suffrage amendment to the Constitution was taken up, and debated until adjournment. Representatives Shellabarger, Bingham, Ward, Butler, Scofield, Pile, Boutwell, speaking in favor of it, the first three and the last proposing amendments. Mr. Jones, of Kentucky, spoke against it. An amendment by Mr. Boutwell, forbidding an educational or property qualification, was rejected.

The greatest care is taken in all the studies, to instruct thoroughly. The grade of female college in the United States, and the development of a womanly character faithfully cared for.

We take pleasure in recommending the Seminary to the parents in our State, who have daughters to educate. There is no need of patronizing Eastern Colleges, when we have first-class institutions in our own State.—[St. Paul (Minnesota) Dispatch.]

## Liquor Law Amendment.

The Indianapolis Journal thinks it would be a good thing to so amend the present liquor law as to permit friends of parties, who may have become habitual drunkards, to make an affidavit to the fact before the County Auditor, whereupon that officer should be required to give notice, by publication or otherwise, of the fact, to all persons who may have received license to retail spirituous or malt liquors in the county, not to either sell or give such party liquors of any description, under penalty of a heavy fine for the first offense, and a forfeiture of license for the second. The law might also require that a list of such persons as affidavits may have been filed against, as having become habitual drunkards, shall be kept in the Auditor's office, and that a copy of such list shall be furnished to all persons to whom licenses may be granted from time to time. As the law now stands it requires that a notice shall be given to each saloon keeper, which involves much more time and labor than most persons can well afford to devote to such a purpose. We hope the temperance committees will carefully consider this suggestion.

## Game Laws.

The Lafayette Journal says the game laws of this State should be made to harmonize with those of Illinois. In that State the shooting and taking of game is now prohibited one month later in summer and one month earlier in winter than in Indiana. It is almost certain that the clause of prohibition will be changed to a month earlier in summer, i. e., to July 15, instead of August, as it now is in Illinois, by the present Legislature. The beginning of the sporting season will then correspond in the two States. Now let our Legislature change its prohibition to the first of January, as it is in Illinois. This is very important, not only on account of correspondence, but it is required by the primary motive, the preservation of game. Especially is this true of the birds.

Prairie chicken and quail should not be at the mercy of murderers in January, when it is as much a bargain to live if unmolested. Their destruction in this month becomes wholesale through their utter helplessness. We ask the attention of the Legislature to this subject, with the hope that they will treat it as worthy of careful consideration and rational action.

## Invalid Sale of Cherokee Lands.

A letter is published from Benj. F. Butler, Wm. Lawrence, Geo. W. Julian and Wm. Johnson, on the sale of the Cherokee lands, showing that the sale of these lands was not authorized by act of Congress, and is invalid.

The impression is gaining ground that velocipedes are a bumble, and that the mania for seeking notoriety astride them in public places is an unmitigated nuisance. A number of inquisitive folks we wot of would like to be informed in what their utility or ornament consists. It has been observed that they are only useful where a vehicle of that sort is useless—that is to say, on a smooth floor or pavement; and that where they might be use-

'Velocipedes' is the name for those who give instruction in the art of managing velocipedes.

ful they are useless—on muddy street crossings, etc., where the rider generally gets off the ungainly thing and carries it until a smooth pavement is found again.

## St. Paul Female Seminary.

We copy the following from the St. Paul (Minnesota) Dispatch. Brother Abbott's numerous friends hereabout will see that he continues to be connected with the above institution, which is now ranked as first class, since he took charge of it.

## A First Class Institute of Learning.

One of the finest institutions of learning in our State is the St. Paul Female Seminary, (formerly known as Mr. Rhinelander's School); it is now in most successful operation after 12 years of progress.

The Seminary has recently been taken in charge by Rev. R. B. Abbott, A. M., an experienced and talented educator, under whose care it seems to be even more flourishing than ever.

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a greater number than ever before—and constantly increasing. Twenty five of these are boarding pupils, the ample buildings of the Seminary affording fine accommodations for those at a distance. The rooms are all commodious, well lit and warmed from a furnace, and neatly furnished.

The school rooms, recitation rooms, &c., are well arranged. There are four pianos in different rooms, affording ample facilities for practice, while a fine set of instruments afford the philosophical and astronomical classes conveniences for study. The fine grounds around the building, and its retired and commanding location, render it peculiarly pleasant in summer.

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## Congressional.

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passed a resolution ordering the Com-

mittee on Reconstruction to inquire and

report whether any, and if any, what fur-

ther action ought to be taken during the

Fortieth Congress regarding the rep-

resentation of Georgia in the House.

The bill regarding pensions was discussed and post-

poned till Tuesday. In Committee of the

Whole, there was some debate on the

Indian Appropriation bill. At the even-

ing session, Mr. Beck, of Kentucky,

made a speech against the proposed Con-

stitutional Amendment regarding suf-

frage.

In the Senate, a bill allowing appoint-

ments to the Naval Academy from the re-

constructed States passed. The proposed

suffrage amendment to the Constitution

was debated by Mr. Stewart of Nevada,

and Mr. Wilson of Massachusetts, in its favor,

and by Mr. Davis of Kentucky and Mr.

Hendricks of Indiana, in opposition. The

first section offered by Mr. Henderson

was amended, by recommendation of the

Judiciary Committee, so as to read:

"The right of citizens of the United States to vote and hold office shall not be denied or

abridged by the United States, or by any

State, on account of race, color or previous

condition of servitude."

The second section asserts the power of Congress to

enforce the provision by appropriate legisla-

tion. Before a vote was taken, the Senate

went into executive session and soon

afterward adjourned.

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ding for the better security of life and

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In the Senate, the Committee on Pen-

sions reported unfavorably on Mrs. Lin-

coln's petition. Mr. Wiley, introduced a

bill granting lands to a West Virginia

railroad. An adverse report was made on

the bill granting land to the Wisconsin &

Lake Superior Railroad, and a favorable

one on a bill granting lands to Minnesota

for improvement of the Mississippi river.

The suffrage amendment to the Constitu-

tion came up.