

The Suffrage Amendment.

The Monday evening session of the Senate did not end until half past eleven on Tuesday forenoon, having continued sixteen hours, during which time the suffrage amendment to the Constitution was under consideration. Mr. Wilson's amendment was substituted for the one adopted by the House, and there was added to it another proposed by Mr. Morton, which provides for choosing Presidential electors by districts. As amended, the resolution passed by a vote of 10 to 16, two-thirds, with a large margin. Wilson's amendment declares that no discrimination shall be made in the United States, among the citizens of the United States, in the exercise of the elective franchise, or in the right to hold office in any State on account of race, color, nativity, property, education or religious creed.

There is a good deal of talk in Washington as to what the House will do with the joint resolution. The Morton article has not been discussed at all in that body, and the Wilson amendment contains a clause which was rejected over there by a very decided majority. The whole matter will probably have to go into a Committee of Conference, and may not be settled for some days.

The Crops.

Dr. Warder, who has just returned from a tour through Indiana and Southern Illinois, informs the Gazette that the winter wheat everywhere looks well and promises an extraordinary yield. The fall was favorable, and the plants got very firmly rooted before cold weather set in. This information corresponds with our advice from Ohio and Kentucky. Of course, the crop is not out of danger, but it is all right so far. All kinds of fruit are safe in Indiana, Ohio and Southern Illinois. In more northern latitudes peaches are killed. With a seasonable spring, we have promise of good crops of fruit.

Liberal Proposition.

Gov. Baker sent a message to the Senate on the 29th ult., embodying a proposition from citizens of Tippecanoe County, for the location of the Agricultural and Mechanical College at the Battle Ground. It is proposed, in case the College is located there, to donate to the State property to the value of \$100,000 and money to the amount of \$50,000. There has been considerable rivalry for the location of this institution, but this is thought to be the best proposition yet received. Gov. Baker submits the proposition without recommendation, but characterizes it as very liberal.

Reimbursing Commissioners.

The Secretary of War has appointed W. R. Kinney of Kentucky, John H. Broadhead of Pennsylvania, and Robert Flint of Wisconsin, Commissioners to reimburse the State of Indiana for money expended for the United States in enrolling, equipping and procuring militia forces to aid in suppressing the rebellion. The Commission will meet in Indianapolis on the 10th of March.

Legislative Excursion.

The members of the Indiana Legislature indulged in an excursion to Terre Haute, on Saturday last, to visit the State Normal School building. This edifice is not yet finished, and an appropriation of \$100,000 is asked to complete it. Our legislators were tendered a free ride, and the invitation having been accepted, three extra cars were attached to the regular train leaving Indianapolis at 9:20 in the morning. Two of these cars were models of beauty, elegance and comfort, and fully equal to any that are run upon any roads East or West. These three cars were filled to their greatest capacity, the very unusual number of 120 out of 150 members of the Legislature going with the company, the total number of invited guests amounting to 165. The ride was a very pleasant one, as any ride over the Terre Haute Railway must be, the company arriving in Terre Haute soon after twelve o'clock. They were taken in cars and carriages to the building, which was inspected by the members of the Legislature as critically as they might choose.

Supreme Court Decision.

In the Supreme Court of the United States, on Monday, Chief Justice Chase delivered an opinion, which affirmed the decision of the Supreme Court of Oregon in favor of the taxes of that State being paid in gold and silver according to its law. The Court held that the legal tender notes being receivable for all debts, with exceptions in the statutes, imply a satisfaction of contracts or agreements, while taxes are of a different character from such obligations; and that it is competent for a State to designate the character of the money in which taxes shall be paid.

Health of Senator Morton.

Adjutant General Terrell, who has just returned from Washington, reports the health of Senator Morton very much improved indeed. His limbs have recovered much of their vitality, and his physician now confidently predicts his complete restoration to health.

Congressional.

In the Senate, on Saturday, the bill for repealing the Tenure-of-Office act was debated. Mr. Edmunds favored amending the present law. Mr. Morton wanted it altogether repealed, and so did Mr. Thayer. Mr. Howe sustained the bill as it stands. Mr. Doolittle made a speech against the proposed Constitutional Amendment. Mr. Bayard followed on the same side. Mr. Howard, from the Committee on Pacific Railroads, reported the new bill which has been prepared on that subject. Messrs. Wilson and Morgan, of the committee, expressed disagreement with the report. Mr. Corbett supported his amendment to the proposed Constitutional Amendment, and Mr. Wilson proposed a new form of words.

In the House, several private bills and claims were disposed of. Mr. Schenck reported from the Committee of Ways and Means a bill regarding the management of National finances. A bill regulating National Banks was reported. The House went into Committee of the Whole and discussed the Army Appropriation bill. There was a long discussion between Mr. Blaine and Mr. Eldridge, regarding the purchase of Ford's Theater, in which President Lincoln was assassinated. Mr. Eldridge maintaining that the purchase was unauthorized and void. Amendments were adopted to the army appropriation amounting to the aggregate to \$10,000,000.

In the Senate, on Monday, a petition for the recognition of God in the Constitution was presented by Mr. Sherman, of Ohio, who spoke in favor of it. Mr. Howard, of Michigan, reported adversely on twelve or fifteen bills and resolutions contemplating grants to railroads. Mr. Morton, of Indiana, introduced a bill for refunding interest and discount paid by Indiana on money borrowed for getting out troops. A bill was introduced for subsidizing a line of United States mail steamers between the United States and Europe. Mr. Edmunds' resolution providing for counting the vote of Georgia for President was passed. The Constitutional amendment came up and was discussed by Mr. Salisbury, of Delaware, in opposition to it, and Mr. Frelinghuysen, of New Jersey, in its favor. The same subject was resumed at the evening session, when the debate became general, and was protracted far into the night, nearly all the Senators taking part, most of them, according to party lines, although two or three Republicans declared themselves opposed to the form of words proposed by the Judiciary Committee.

The House passed the Copper tariff bill, and the resolution about counting the electoral vote of Georgia, and in Committee of the Whole got through with the Army Appropriation bill. Mr. Garfield proposed his measure for reducing the army, but it was not acted upon.

Honor to Whom Honor is Due.

We have seen notices in the party papers commenting on the efficiency of the Chairman of the Republican State Central Committee, and have no doubt of the ability and faithfulness of Mr. Connor. The position requires executive ability of a high order—the patience of Job, and the perseverance of Grant. Among the aids de-camp of the Chairman of the State Committee, who distinguished themselves in the late canvass, none were more zealous, untiring, efficient and liberal in donation of money, than the Chairman of the Republican Central Committee of this county—Mr. Richard H. Swift. As a business man Mr. S. has few, if any, superiors, and yet he was more than willing to manage the financial business of the local canvass by drawing heavily on his private purse. Many other gentlemen made liberal use of their money and time for the cause, but Mr. Swift, in honor of his position, perhaps, excelled them all.

Worn Out and Mutilated.

An unusually large amount of mutilated and worn out bank notes and fractional currency is coming to the Treasury for redemption, and the call for new money has been so great that the Currency Bureau was not able to meet it without drawing on what was printed some time ago. It is ascertained on inquiry that we have made a good deal of our money of shoddy paper, that is, mutilated notes ground up in the Treasury Department and made over again. The currency from this stock, printed by the hydraulic press, proves to be of a very inferior quality, and of course is easily worn out in handling. Orders have been given that no more grinding up of old notes shall be done, but that hereafter only the best kind of new stock shall be used in making government money.

Beer and Ale at the Capital.

The Journal states that the manufacture of those slightly stimulating and aristocratic beverages, beer and ale, does not languish in Indianapolis, and shows no evidence of decay. The product of these two articles in that city last year aggregated twenty-eight thousand two hundred and forty-nine and one half barrels.

Spanish Troubles.

Bands of Carlists have appeared in Catalonia, and are rising against the provisional government of Spain. Troops have been sent from Madrid to disperse them. The journals at Madrid, fearing a civil war, are urging the Government to take active measures, and the people to unite against the reactionary party.

Estimates of State Taxes.

The following items in reference to the estimates of State taxes for 1869 and 1870, with the tax levies and assessments for the last thirteen years, etc., will be of general interest. The figures are taken from the report of the Auditor of State, which has just been issued.

The following are the estimates for the fiscal year ending October 31, 1869:

Amount of revenue levied upon the duplicates for 1868	\$1,324,586 81
Deduct for delinquencies	229,801 00
Cost of collection	75,000 00
Total	325,000 00
Estimated net collections	\$999,586 81
Aud balance on hand November 1, 1868	582,435 94
Total resources	\$1,582,022 75

EXPENDITURES.

Ordinary expenditures	\$272,650 00
Public institutions	181,500 00
Public indebtedness	629,951 74
Total	1,074,201 74
Leaving a balance of	\$507,819 01

ESTIMATES FOR 1870.

The assessment of real and personal property will reach \$625,000,000, which, at a levy of 15 cents on each \$100, will give	\$937,500 00
Poll tax on 250,000 polls, at 50 cents each	125,000 00
Deduct delinquencies	\$1,062,500 00
Cost of collection	75,000 00
Total	300,000 00
Add estimated balance November 1, 1869	507,819 01
Total estimated resources	\$1,270,319 01

EXPENDITURES.

Ordinary expenditures	\$157,150 00
Public institutions	175,000 00
Public indebtedness	324,951 74
Total	657,101 74
Leaving a balance of	\$613,217 27

TAX LEVIES AND ASSESSMENTS.

The aggregate amounts of taxes levied upon the grand duplicates of each year, for the last thirteen years, have been as follows:

Total taxes levied for 1856	\$1,965,619 49
Total taxes levied for 1857	2,439,355 59
Total taxes levied for 1858 (no report made)	3,825,018 21
Total taxes levied for 1859	3,768,742 57
Total taxes levied for 1860	4,095,913 05
Total taxes levied for 1861	3,998,028 07
Total taxes levied for 1862	4,508,742 29
Total taxes levied for 1863	7,057,366 64
Total taxes levied for 1864	13,167,335 22
Total taxes levied for 1865	19,167,834 59
Total taxes levied for 1866	9,685,736 77
Total taxes levied for 1867	19,274,659 13

Seventeen counties estimated.

The total valuation of the real and personal property in the State, during the last thirteen years, together with the increase or decrease each year, are shown as follows:

YEAR.	TOTAL.	INCREASE.	DECREASE.
1856	\$279,632,249		
1857	317,952,958	\$38,320,709	
1858	318,294,084	22,000	
1859	325,367,502	117,162,518	
1860	455,011,378	19,643,816	
1861	41,002,539		\$13,494,639
1862	42,445,508		20,135,496
1863	44,435,036	22,048,100	
1864	516,365,999	73,369,963	
1865	567,384,233	50,975,234	
1866	578,484,109	11,092,856	
1867	577,869,049	10,101,470	615,029
1868	587,910,249	10,041,200	
Total increase in thirteen years	\$433,157,512		
Total valuation in 1868 is	\$577,869,049		
Total valuation in 1856 was	279,632,249		

Net increase in thirteen years \$308,935,340 |

Total valuation in 1868 was \$577,869,049 |

Total valuation in 1856 was 279,632,249 |

Total increase in twenty three years \$463,794,863 |

The following is an abstract of the assessments of property in the State:

Value of lands and improvements	\$315,347,280
Value of town lots and improvements	\$3,357,818
Value of personal property	1,081,612 92
Railroad assessments	10,459,290
Total valuation	\$330,217,390
Number of polls	219,473 92
Acres of land	22,408,910

The following is an itemized statement of the taxes levied on the duplicate for 1868, in the State of Indiana:

State tax	\$1,317,350 41
School tax	1,082,855 71
Sinking fund tax	1,109,754 33
County tax	3,199,073 29
Road tax	579,442 93
Township tax	287,223 67
County tax	1,081,612 92
Dog tax	164,061 00
Gravel road tax	492,946 55
County tax	492,946 55
Railroad tax	135,169 80
Other tax	54,031 07
Total taxes of 1868	\$10,298,004 66
Delinquent taxes in 1867, and previous years	2,041,547 73
Total taxes	\$12,339,552 39

Small Fox on the Pacific Coast.

The telegrams have told us of the small fox on the Pacific coast; but a San Francisco letter says the streets are filled with funerals; in some cases burials are made by night, contagion remains as deadly as ever, and its decline is hardly perceptible. All the pest-houses are full. Men, women and children with vaccine scars on their arms have fallen victims to the epidemic. Whole families have died, but the plague-spot of the State thus far has been the town of San Juan, in Monterey county, one hundred miles from San Francisco. Out of a population of one thousand, four hundred were taken down with small pox, and of these four hundred persons one hundred and sixty have died.

A Defaulter Pleads Guilty.

W. E. D. Barnett, defaulting Treasurer of Putnam county, plead guilty, and agreed to an unconditional judgment for \$5,000, which stops proceedings in the case.

Indiana Ahead.

Indiana is the second greatest corn growing State in the Union. In 1868 she produced 80,332,000 bushels, 10,975,000 in excess of 1867.

Heath and Home.

The enterprising firm of Pettigill, Bates & Co., of New York, publishers of "Heath and Home," are determined to give their subscribers the worth of their money. With No. 8 of this excellent paper they send a beautiful engraving entitled, "The Pet of the Village," as a Valentine.

Monument to Gen'l P. A. Hackleman.

MR. CRITTENDEN, of Madison, introduced the following resolutions:

Whereas, General Pleasant A. Hackleman, a brave and true soldier of the late war, fell in the battle of Corinth, Mississippi, while gallantly leading his command to victory; And,

Whereas, The remains of this patriotic soldier lie interred in the cemetery at Rushville, Indiana, without monument or stone to mark his last resting place; and

Whereas, The widow and family of General Hackleman have been and still are deeply afflicted and unfortunate, and have not the means to place an appropriate monument to his memory; therefore

Resolved, That a committee of two be appointed by the Speaker of this House, to confer with an equal number on the part of the Senate, who shall mature some plan by which the people of said State may testify their high appreciation of his many noble qualities, by erecting an enduring monument to his memory.

Resolved, That the Speaker of this House communicate these resolutions to the Senate, and respectfully ask their concurrence in the same.

Mr. STEWART, of Rush, paid an eloquent and feeling tribute to the memory of the fallen hero. The resolution was adopted.

The above is copied from recent proceedings in the Indiana Legislature. It is the unanimous wish of all the friends of General P. A. Hackleman that some fitting tribute to his memory may be erected. Born as he was in our own County, none know but to honor him. It is to be hoped that, whatever may be made of the above resolutions, something will be done to further the attempt to honor, not the glorious dead, for he is past all earthly honors, but ourselves, in showing how well his services and sacrifices are remembered. No nobler spirit ever flew to Heaven from the horrors of the battlefield than Pleasant A. Hackleman, and Indiana can do no nobler work than to fitly commemorate his death, and thus most vividly recall the excellencies of the character of one of the noblest sons of our State of Indiana.

New Movement.

A meeting of native Virginians, including farmers and professional men, was held on Wednesday, in Nottoway county, at which resolutions were adopted indorsing the "new movement," deprecating further resistance to the reconstruction acts, and resolving the meeting into a political organization, with the name of the Republican party. This is the first movement of the sort which has taken place in the State.

Joint Resolution on Finance.

On Friday a joint resolution passed the State Senate, by a vote of 30 to 6, against the passage of any law by Congress specially legalizing coin contracts, and against any reduction in the volume of circulating currency.

Skating Match between Two Misses.

A skating match for \$500 between Miss Gault of New Brunswick, and Miss Dean of Chicago, took place in Buffalo on Wednesday evening of last week. Four thousand persons were present, and after an exciting contest the match was won by Miss Dean, the score standing 24 to 31, on which Miss Gault challenged Miss Dean to skate another match for the same amount on the next Saturday evening.

Mr. Editor, I see by the last issue of your paper that you noticed the fact that some worthy gentlemen of Brookville and Springfield Townships had been fined for violation of the fish law. You say that in justice to these gentlemen it should be stated that they were under the impression that the fish law had been decided unconstitutional. Mr. Editor, I read so in your paper, and I believe that the law is unconstitutional yet. I believe that a man has a right to kill fish on his premises whenever he pleases, and the right to exclude every intruder, Judge or Prosecutor, provided he gets little enough to do so. Mr. Editor, or to whom it may concern, I intend to fish and shoot on my premises whenever I please, Henry Bickel, Judge of the Peace, and the Prosecutor to the contrary notwithstanding.

WILLIAM H. LIXLEY.

N. B. In justice to Mr. Bickel I will state that I think he did some pretty close work when he swore before the jury of eleven sworn men that he saw no have hold of the end of a net, but did not know the man who had hold of the other end; because he did know every man who was there as well as he knew me. Now I would not have it understood that Mr. Bickel swore to a lie. I think he made a mistake, that's all.

The Contest.

Last week Judge Reid "explored the North Pole," but without discovering anything he wanted to. Yesterday the taking of the testimony of every Republican voter at the South Pole was to begin, and be continued from day to day till completed. This will be apt to reach the merits of the case.—[Richmond Radical.]

We learn that G. W. Julian has given the requisite notice of his intention to take testimony in reference to the contested election in this city, commencing on the 3d of February. It is rumored that he has determined to call up every man who voted at that election and have him sworn to whom he voted for. This will be a good idea, as it will take all summer to obtain the testimony, and George will be sure of his seat during that time certain.—[Richmond Humming Bird.]

We are not surprised that the Ku-Klux Republic and Copperhead partisans of Reid object to the above indicated line of examination. Its results may embarrass them somewhat.—[Richmond Radical.]

Seven thousand troops were sent from Spain to Cuba in the last week of January.

WASHINGTON LETTER.

[Correspondence of the Indiana American.]

WASHINGTON, D. C., FEB. 5, 1869.

Congress is doing some splendid work.

The resolution introduced in the House recently by Mr. Holman, and passed by a large majority, stopping large grants of land to railroad monopolies, is one step in the right direction. It remains to be seen whether outside interests can equal the old custom into some new but equally ruinous policy. It is now proposed that the Government become surety for the payment of the bonds of certain railroads. That would not be much improvement on the old plan.

Recent investigations have unearthed some startling frauds that have long been practiced in the purchase of stationery for the Departments. Congress, after investigating this matter, has promptly changed the practice of contracting, and adopted a remedy.

There are some wholesome amendments to the Pension laws proposed—with what hope of their being adopted, I do not know. One is, that a widow drawing pension does not forfeit it on re-marriage.

Another and more important amendment is, to give a pension on account of death in the service, without requiring proof that the origin of disease was in the line of duty. The same in case of invalids.

That will be an improvement. Many a man went in the service sound, and came out an invalid, who cannot prove just when or where or how his infirmity was acquired. Many a one has been wounded in battle or on picket, and has been attended by a strange surgeon whom he cannot now find. If Congress will grant an invalid pension to all who can prove soundness at the time of enlistment, and permanent unsoundness at the time of discharge, and to widows and orphans of the dead soldiers without requiring proof which in many cases it is impossible to get justice will be done in very many instances. The files of the Pension Office would be cleared of hundreds of worthy cases that are now awaiting evidence of origin of disease, and the country would have a better opinion of the good intentions of the Government.

The proposition to give Mrs. Lincoln a pension of \$5,000 per annum will not meet with much favor. While the Government will award all honor to the martyred President, it will be slow to understand that the widows of Presidents are required to live in any princely style. There is something inexplicable in the practice of paying officers of the Army and Navy larger salaries in time of peace than in time of war. It will be remembered that in 1862 Congress reduced the pay of officers in the Army from the peace standard. Since the war the old pay is restored. There is now a proposition before Congress to increase the pay \$33 per cent, and the proposition is made with some favor. It should be a matter of surprise if Congress grants the increase.

The Inauguration Ball, which was supposed to have been abandoned, is revived, notwithstanding the letter of Gen. Grant advising its discontinuance. It is now stated that the General will give it his presence. Many of his friends hoped he would "light it out on that line."

The weather is Greenlandish. We had none so cold during January. There is much solicitude felt for that ground hog, and of his hole, on Caudan's ranch, and seeing his shadow, concluded that Winter was over, and stayed out. Besides losing his reputation as a seer, it is feared he will lose his life by the mis understanding between him and the clerk of the weather, and then there will be no more any of that breed of logs to tell us when Winter is over.

J. R. G.

Assessment of Taxes.

Some time ago Mr. McCarty, State Auditor, issued a circular to the Township Assessors, instructing them to make their assessments for the ensuing year upon a currency basis. Within a few days an attempt has been made in the Legislature to "reverse these instructions by a law requiring assessments to be made on a gold basis." It failed in the House by a two-thirds majority. We may rejoice that it failed for any reason, but it ought to have been voted down. It is difficult to conceive a greater perplexity, more causelessly created, than would follow such a law. It will embarrass Assessors, Treasurers, and taxpayers, and it can benefit the State or country, we can't see it.

1st. Many Assessors have doubtless already made returns to county Auditors in pursuance of the State Auditor's instructions. This bill, if passed, will compel them to make new returns, or compel the county Auditors to reduce the currency valuations to gold. Neither will be an easy task, and to enforce it with no more reason than has been made apparent, yet, looks like one of those "fantastic tricks" which are "cooked in a little black authority," which Slackens tells us "make the angels weep." At least it will make every Assessor and taxpayer whose appraisement has been completed, swear, to the especial discomfort of those who voted "aye" and seek a re-election.

2d. It will impose a burthen upon the Assessors that was never contemplated by the law creating their office, and one which very few members of the Legislature would like to assume, even at five dollars a day. The Assessor must first estimate the value of the property in currency. This is inevitable. He can no more make an estimate in gold without a comparison with currency, than he can fly. Let some member of the Legislature ask another the value of his property in gold, and see if he does not reduce it in a hasty way, from a currency estimate first made mentally. Now, has it ever occurred to the supporters of this bill that calculating carefully, as sworn officers must do, the gold value of property from a currency estimate, is not a highly arithmetical task? We will ask Mr. Coffroth, who seems to have led in its advocacy, to do this little sum—"Find the gold value of a farm worth in currency \$2,125.00, when gold is worth 130¢." How many members of the Legislature can do it "in their heads?" May there not be a Democrat or two who can't do it at all? To require gold assessments is to require assessors to perform this rather troublesome task, and it is certainly one that the law never intended to impose upon them, and one that few out of six can perform.

3d. Gold is no longer the standard of value. It never is, or can be, where it is not the medium of business. As soon as it retires from circulation it becomes money no more, but an article of merchandise. What sense or consistency is there in requiring valuation of property in one article of merchandise more than another? Why not require Assessors' estimates to be made in bushels of wheat, or pounds of beef?

4th. Gold being an article of merchandise, varies in value as compared with the standard, from day to day. Sometimes it varies two or three per cent. in a week. An Assessor can by no possibility complete his work in a week, or two weeks. What must he do when he sees gold fluctuating so constantly? Follow the market reports, of course, for he can do nothing else. Then, to day he appraises Mr. Jones' farm at \$1,200 in currency, and reduces it to gold at 134¢ if he can; tomorrow he will appraise Mr. Smith's farm at \$1,200 in currency, and reduce it to gold at 135¢. Mr. Smith may not like it that his farm, hitherto appraised at exactly the same price as his neighbor's, and appraised at the same price in currency, must go upon the tax duplicate with three-fourths per cent. difference against him. By the last of the week the Assessor may have to make three per cent. difference against Mr. Brown by a rise in gold; and by the last of the following week he must make four per cent. difference in favor of Mr. Thompson by a fall in gold. Now ought the Legislature to create these perplexities for the Assessor, or these discriminations for or against taxpayers?

5th. Assessments upon a fluctuating basis, and necessarily at different times, will not only create utter confusion, but will give the Board of Equalization a task that would have killed Sir Isaac Newton and Prof. Mitchell both.

6th. The valuations of our State property upon a gold basis, compared with those of adjoining States made upon a currency basis, will make us look wretchedly poor. We can explain, to be sure, but the impression will be bad, and what explanation ever removed wholly the effect of a bad first impression?

7th. But suppose the Assessors can all reduce currency estimates to gold, and that the duplicate is made up from returns thus reduced, what is the Auditor to do? Calculate the taxes on a gold basis? We suppose so, or else he must undo all the hard work that the Assessors have done. It will be even a little harder for him to calculate currency taxes upon gold appraisements, than it was for the Assessors to calculate gold from a currency appraisement. Well, suppose he calculates the taxes in gold, and passes the duplicate over to the Treasurer, what is the Treasurer to do when the tax-payer comes? Turn the gold tax into currency, of course, unless, of course, the tax-payer should be content to be taxed in gold, which is not likely. Then he must undo all the work of the Assessors. In other words, this bill compels Assessors