

Indiana Legislature.

IN SENATE.—FRIDAY, January 14.

The bill to amend the act, entitled "An act subjecting real and personal property to execution," approved January 30th 1824, was read a second time and referred to the committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. Thornton delivered the following message from the House of Representatives, to wit:

MR. PRESIDENT.—The House of Representatives concur in the resolution this day adopted by the Senate, respecting Major General Lafayette, and have on their part appointed Messrs. Nelson, Maxwell, Posey, Hurst, Robb, Farrington, Noble, Irwin of Bartholomew, Harris, Bassett, Conner and Brown, a committee in conformity to said resolution.

The Senate according to order, resolved itself into a committee of the whole, on the bill to regulate actions of slander, trespass and malicious prosecutions: Mr. Graham in the chair.

After some time spent in debate, the committee rose, and the chairman reported that the committee of the whole had, according to order, the said bill under consideration, and had made an amendment thereto, by striking out the same from the enacting clause; which was concurred in by the Senate—Ayes 9. Noes 6.—And,

On motion—the further consideration of the said bill was indefinitely postponed.

Saturday, January 15.

Mr. Ewing offered for consideration and adoption, the following resolution:

Resolved, That the committee on military affairs be instructed to inquire into the expediency of providing for the instruction of commissioned and non-commissioned officers, and requiring their attention to drill ten days in each year; and also of changing the regimental and other muster days, so that the private man will not (unless where they voluntarily adopt company muster days) be required by law, to turn out to drill more than twice in each year; and the said resolution was read and adopted.

On motion of Mr. Thompson, Resolved, That the judiciary committee be instructed to inquire into the expediency of forming an additional judicial circuit, and changing the present terms from two to three terms in the year, and report thereon by bill or otherwise.

Monday, January 17.

Mr. Gray laid before the Senate the petition of Ezra Ferris and others, praying an alteration in certain parts of the state road leading from Lawrenceburgh to Indianopolis; read and referred to the committee on roads and canals.

Mr. Stapp asked and obtained leave to introduce a bill to abolish imprisonment for debt in certain cases; which was read and ordered to a second reading to-morrow.

On motion of Mr. Thompson, Resolved, That the judicial committee be instructed to draft and lay before the Senate a bill for leasing the seminary and school lands in this state.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Wednesday January 12.

On motion of Mr. Nelson, Resolved, That the judiciary committee be instructed to inquire what omissions, mistakes, and deficiencies have occurred in the revision of the laws which are necessary to be supplied by amendment, with leave to report by bill or otherwise.

On motion of Mr. Hoover, Resolved, That a committee be appointed to inquire if any, and what amendments are necessary in the act regulating probate courts.

The bill authorizing the taxation of all lands, the exemption of which from taxation ceases, on or before the 1st of October next was read the second time and committed to the committee of ways and means.

Saturday, January 15.

Mr. Hillis, offered the following resolution, which was read and ordered to lie on the table, to wit:

Resolved, That the committee of ways and means be instructed to report a bill to this House, to reduce the state tax on land to one dollar for every hundred acres of first rate land; seventy cents on every hundred acres of second rate land; fifty cents on every hundred acres of third rate land, and on each poll 25 cents.

Mr. Noble offered a resolution relative to the erection of one or more asylums, for the reception of the poor, and of so changing the mode of affording them relief, that it shall be a state object, and that the counties be relieved therefrom.

The bill for taking an enumeration of free white male inhabitants in the state over the age of 21 years, was read the second time and committed to a committee of the whole House on Monday next.

CONGRESSIONAL.

IN SENATE.

Tuesday, January 4, 1825.

On motion of Mr. Johnson, of Louisiana, the Senate took up the resolution submitted by him on the 22d ult. in relation to a permanent fund for education and internal improvement; and then, on motion of Mr. J. the resolutions were committed to a select committee, to consider and report thereon.

The Senate then resumed the consideration of the bill "to abolish imprisonment for debt."

The first part of the first section of the bill is as follows: "That no bail or security for the appearance of any defendant or defendants shall hereafter be required upon the service of the original, or mesne process, issuing out of the courts of the United States, in any action or suit whatever, founded on contract express or implied, which shall be made or entered into, after the 4th of July next, unless the plaintiff, or some other person, shall make oath or affirmation, before the clerk or officer attesting the said process, who is hereby empowered to administer the same, or before some other person authorized by law to administer oaths, that the defendant or defendants named in the process are justly indebted to the plaintiff or plaintiffs, in the sum claimed by him or them, and shall further make oath or affirmation, that he or they have reason to believe that the said defendant or defendants intend to remove from the state or territory, or intend to leave the United States."

Mr. Tazewell moved, for reasons which he assigned in some detail, to strike out the clause printed in italics.

The question being taken on the amendment proposed by Mr. Tazewell, it was decided by yeas 22, nays 22.

The Senate being equally divided on the question, the motion was, of course, lost.

The question was then taken on ordering the bill to be engrossed and read a third time, and was agreed to without a division. The Senate then adjourned.

Wednesday, January 5.

Mr. Thomas presented the memorial of the Legislature of Illinois, praying a donation of land to enable the state to open a canal between Lake Michigan and the Illinois river: which was read, and, on motion of Mr. T. referred to a select committee.

The engrossed bill to abolish imprisonment for debt, was taken up for a third reading; when

Mr. Noble rose, and said, that he asked the indulgence of the Senate for a few moments. He had not interrupted the friends of the bill during the period that they were modifying and amending it. He was one of those that believed that the true legitimate safeguard of the liberties, lives, and property of the citizens, was secure in the judiciary of the federal state courts, in preference to any other branch of either of the governments. The bill originally introduced in the Senate has since been frequently amended, and no gentleman of this body can now safely declare the extent of the amendments. No amendment to the bill has been printed, and it is now engrossed, and ready for a third reading. A bill to be passed by this body, operating upon near ten millions of souls, with what caution should we act! Will the nation be benefited by the immediate passage of the bill, and would it not be prudent that that which we do should be done with due caution and reflection? He was one of those, that thought the relation of creditor and debtor was unpleasant under any circumstance, yet he would not give his vote, but with a view to enforce the payment of every just demand. Yesterday, on a very important feature of the bill, the Senate was equally divided; it is not now full. Will the friends of the bill now press it, without a fair opportunity for a full expression of the Senate? If it be true that the rights of the citizens be secure in the judiciary of the country, is it not our duty to cautiously pass a law to be enforced by the judges, that they may effect the object. That we shall not act hastily, he moved that the bill be printed for the use of the Senate, and postponed until Friday next.

Mr. Johnson, of Kentucky, said all the proposed amendments involving principle had been negatived by the Senate, and that all which had been made to the bill were merely verbal and unimportant. He hoped therefore, as the printing was unnecessary, that the postponement would not take place, as it might be fatal to the measure.

The motion of Mr. Noble was agreed to—yeas 22, and the bill accordingly postponed to Friday.

House of Representatives.

Wednesday, December 29.

The following message was received from the President of the United States, by the hands of Mr. Everett, his private secretary:

To the Speaker of the House of Representatives: In compliance with a resolution of the H. of Representatives of 27th inst. requesting information explanatory of the character

and object of the visit of the naval officer of the United States, commanding in the West Indies, to the town of Fagardo, in the Island of Porto Rico, on the — day of November last, I herewith transmit a report of the Secretary of the Navy, with a letter from Com. Porter, which contains all the information, in possession of the executive, on the subject. Deeming the transactions adverted to of high importance, an order has been sent to Com. Porter to repair hither, without delay, that all the circumstances connected therewith may be fully investigated.

JAMES MONROE.

Washington, Dec. 19th, 1824.

The message was read, and ordered to lie on the table: and then the House adjourned.

Thursday, December 30.

On motion of Mr. Archer, of Va. it was Resolved, That a committee be appointed to unite with a committee from the Senate in announcing to Gen. Lafayette the passage of the act concerning him, which has just been approved, and to express to him the respectful request and confidence of the two Houses of Congress that he will add his acceptance of the testimony of public gratitude extended to him by this act, to the many and signal proof which he has afforded of his esteem for the United States.

Mr. Cook, of Ill. moved the following: Resolved, That a committee be appointed to inquire whether any, and, if any, what provision it will be proper or practicable to make to aid the state of Illinois in opening a canal to connect the waters of Lake Michigan and the Illinois river: and that the said committee have leave to report by bill or otherwise.

Mr. Cook, moved to lay the resolve on the table; which motion was agreed to, and the resolution ordered to lie on the table accordingly.

Amendment to the Constitution.

Mr. Strong, of New-York, rose, and said, it would be recollected by the House, that the gentleman from S. Carolina, (Mr. McDuffie,) had given notice, that on Monday, the 3d of January, he would call up the amendment proposed by him at the last session, to the Constitution of the U. S. and that the gentleman from Louisiana, (Mr. Livingston,) had given notice that, when that amendment was taken up, he should call up an amendment to it proposed by himself at the last session. Mr. Strong now wished to propose an amendment to the amendment of the gentleman from Louisiana; the effect of which would be, that, in the final vote for President of the United States in this House, the members, instead of voting collectively by states, should vote individually, as on any other question. Wishing to bring such a measure into discussion, he moved for the printing of all three amendments—that of Mr. McDuffie, that of Mr. Livingston, and his own—giving notice that he should move for the consideration of the whole subject on Monday next.

Monday, January 3, 1825.

The Lafayette Grant was taken up for consideration. Mr. Archer, of Va. from the joint committee appointed to communicate to General Lafayette the act passed for his benefit, asked and obtained leave to report, when he submitted copies of a letter from the committee to the General, and his reply, [as will be seen in the account of the proceedings of the Senate, in our paper of last week,] which, on motion of Mr. Condict, were entered at large on the journals of the House.

Niagara Claims.—The House then proceeded in the order of the day, and went again into a committee of the whole, Mr. Campbell, of Ohio, in the chair, on the bill for the relief of the Niagara sufferers. After a long debate, on motion of Mr. Ross, of Ohio, the committee then rose, reported progress, and obtained leave to sit again.

The Speaker laid before the House the Annual report from the Secretary of the Treasury, which was referred to the committee of Ways and Means.

And the House adjourned.

Tuesday, January 4.

The resolution yesterday offered by Mr. Ingham, calling for correspondence respecting the violation of our neutral rights, in the ports of South America, was taken up, and having at the suggestion of Mr. Webster, received a slight modification, was adopted.

Mr. Strong, of New-York, submitted the following, which lies one day:

Resolved, That the President of the United States be requested to communicate to this House, if not incompatible to the public interest, the documents and proceedings of the Naval Court Martial, in the case of Lieutenant Weaver, lately held in or near the city of New York.

Mr. Saunders, of N. C. offered, with a brief explanation, amendments to the Constitution, touching the election of President and Vice President of the United States.

The resolution was twice read, and referred to the committee of the whole on the state of the Union, to whom other resolutions on the same subject have been referred.

The House then again resolved itself into a committee of the whole, on the bill for

the relief of certain persons who suffered losses of property during the late war, and the debate was resumed and continued until the hour of adjournment, without any decisive question being taken.

MR. PERKINS'S EXTRAORDINARY STEAM GUN.

A discovery has been made, which will, in all probability, adjust the account between population and food in the most satisfactory manner. We allude to the new Steam Gun of Mr. Perkins, which promises very fair to send the whole race of heroes to their long homes in a very short time. According to the following account, which we extract from the London Mechanic's Register, the effects of this invention will leave every plague or pestilence at an immeasurable distance behind in point of destructiveness. Ten of his guns, supposing one shot in 20 only to tell, will sweep away 150,000 men in a single day!

"We were enabled on Wednesday, thro' the kindness of Mr. Perkins, to examine minutely, at his Manufactory in the Regent's Park, the extraordinary piece of mechanism called the Steam Gun. It is simply formed by introducing a barrel into the steam generator of any engine, and by the addition of two pipes towards the chamber of the gun, introducing a quantity of balls; which, by the action of a handle to the chamber, are dropped into the barrel and fired one by one, at the rate of from four to five hundred in the minute. The expulsive force of the steam which rushes from the generator and expels the balls, is about 700 lbs. to the square inch; with their force a musket ball fired against an iron plate at the distance of 100 feet from the gun, is flattened, and when a force of 840 lbs. to the square inch is applied, the ball is actually driven to pieces in such a way that none of its fragments can be collected. As the gun is now fixed, having a direct communication thro' a wall with one of Mr. Perkins's engines, it cannot of course be removed from the spot, the barrel merely being susceptible of alteration; but in the event of the invention being applied to purposes of warfare, it would be easy to attach a portable steam engine of small dimensions, which could be removed with as much rapidity as any piece of ordnance now in use. The cost of such a machine would be comparatively small, and as Mr. Perkins is about to construct a 4 pounder, which can be moved about with great facility by two horses, the public will have a good opportunity of judging of its practical merits, of which, however there cannot be a doubt, after the experiments already made at the manufactory. The most extraordinary part of the affair is the smallness of the expense in charging artillery of this nature, compared with that of the present system. In Mr. Perkins' Steam Gun, one pound weight of coals is found to produce the same effect as four pounds weight of gunpowder, viz: one pound of coals will generate sufficient steam to expel, with equal force, as many balls as four pounds of powder. Of the rapidity, with which the discharges are made, we say little, after what we have observed of the mode in which the balls are expelled; but there is another great advantage, which, on the score of humanity, deserves commendation. An explosion from this gun is next to impossible; for the greater the rapidity of the firing, the less is the danger, as the steam or vapour rushes forward, without check, and finds a vent in the open air. How many lives on the contrary have been lost by the bursting of our common gold-pieces, and how little reliance is to be placed upon the greatest care in cleansing them in the heat of battle. Ten guns, upon this principle, would, in a field of battle, be more than equal to 200 on the present system; and a vessel of only six guns would be rendered more than a match for a seventy-four.

"If any two rulers of the earth were to know, that in the event of declaring war against each other, a plague or pestilence would blast both armies and sweep them from the face of the earth, they would pause before they made such a declaration; but what plague, what pestilence, would exceed, in its effects, those of the Steam Gun? Five hundred balls fired every minute, and one out of twenty to reach its mark—why, ten of such guns would destroy 150,000 daily. Mr. Perkins considers steam discovery as in its infancy, for he says he is convinced that a steam engine might be made to throw a ball of a ton weight, from Dover to Calais."

NEW-JERSEY.—The Legislature of this State adjourned on the 31st ultimo, after passing an act to incorporate a Company to make a Canal from the Raritan to the Delaware, from which Company the State is to receive a bonus of 100,000 dollars. Acts were also passed to incorporate six banks, which are collectively to pay to the state a bonus of some 60,000 dollars. These banks, as well the canal company, are probably to be established on capital from the City of New-York.—*Am. Intell.*