

CONGRESSIONAL.

IN SENATE—Dec. 16.

The Vice President of the United States, this day took his seat in the Chair of the Senate, and delivered the following address:

SENATORS! On entering on the duties of this station to which I have been called by the People, deference to you and justice to myself require that I shall forestall expectations which might otherwise be disappointed. Although for many years heretofore member of the Senate, I regret that I should not have acquired that knowledge of the particular order of its proceedings which might naturally be expected. Unfortunately for me in respect to my present condition, I ever found those at hand who had more correctly appreciated this important branch of their duties, and on whose opinions, as to points of order, I could at all times safely rely. This remissness would doubtless, for a season, cause me no small degree of embarrassment. So far, however, as unremitting exertions on my part, and a proper respect for the advice of those who are better informed than myself, can avail, this deficiency will be remedied as speedily as possible; and I feel persuaded that the Senate, in the mean time will extend to me a considerable indulgence.

But, however wanting I may be, for the time, in a thorough knowledge of the technical duties of the Chair, I entertain I humbly hope, a deep and solemn conviction of its high moral obligations. I am well aware that he who occupies it is bound to cherish towards the members of the body over which he presides, no other feelings than those of justice and courtesy; to regard them all as standing on an honorable equality—to apply the rules established by themselves, for their own government, with strict impartiality—and to use whatever authority he possesses in the manner best calculated to protect the rights, to respect the feelings, and to guard the reputations of all who may be affected by its exercise.

It is no disparagement to any other branch of the Government to say, that there is none on which the Constitution devolves such extensive powers as it does upon the Senate. There is scarcely an exercise of constitutional authority in which it does not mediate or immediately participate; it forms an important and, in some respects, indispensable part of each of the three great departments, Executive, Legislative, and Judicial; and is, moreover, the body in which is made efficient, that share of Power in the Federal organization so wisely allowed to the respective State sovereignties.

Invested with such august powers so judiciously restricted and so largely adapted to the purposes of good government, it is no wonder that the Senate is regarded by the people of the United States, as one of the best features in what they at least consider to be, the wisest, the freest, and happiest political system in the world. In fervent wishes that it may long continue to be so regarded, and in a conviction of the importance of order, propriety, and regularity in its proceedings, we must all concur. It shall be an object of my highest ambition, Senators, to join with you, as far as in me lies, in effecting those desirable objects; and in endeavoring to realize the expectation formed of this Body at the adoption of the Constitution, and ever since confidently cherished, that it would exercise the most efficient influence in upholding the Federal system, and in perpetuating what is at once the foundation and the safeguard of our country's welfare, the Union of the States.

The Senate then proceeded to ballot for the remaining members of the Committee on Finance, when the following were elected: Messrs. Tyler, Ewing, Wilkins, and Mangum.

Mr. Wilkins moved that the Senate now adjourn: Ayes 19, Noses 24.

IN SENATE—Dec. 17.

Mr. Tipton, on leave, introduced a bill further to extend the provisions of the act granting pre-emption rights to the settlers on the Public Lands, &c.; which was read and ordered to be read a second time.

TREASURY REPORT.

The Chair, laid before the Senate, the Annual Report of the Secretary of the Treasury.

On motion of Mr. Webster, the report was ordered to be referred to the Committee on Finance, and 1500 extra copies were then ordered to be printed.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

On motion of Mr. Hannegan,

Resolved, That the Committee on Roads and Canals be instructed to inquire into the expediency of making an appropriation for the purpose of removing the obstructions to the navigation of the Wabash river.

On motion of Mr. Lane.

Resolved, That the Committee on Public Lands be instructed to inquire into the expediency of permitting the public lands which have been fifteen years in market, to be purchased by actual settlers or resident cultivators, at a reduced price, under the same regulations and restrictions as are prescribed by the act of April 5th, 1832, for the purchase of forty acre tracts; and of granting to every settler (being a housekeeper) on such lands, a right of pre-emption to enter the quarter quarter sections which he has improved, with leave to re-re-bill or otherwise.

On motion of Mr. Carr.

Resolved, That the Committee on Roads and Canals be instructed to inquire into the expediency of making an appropriation, either in money or in Government lands, for the purpose of improving the great Western thoroughfare and mail route between Louisville Ky. and St. Louis, in the State of Missouri.

Be it further Resolved, That the Committee on Roads and Canals be instructed to inquire into the expediency of making an appropriation for the purpose of improving the navigation in the Indian Chute, through the Falls of the Ohio river, opposite Louisville, Ky.—a sum sufficient to accomplish which, and make the Indian Chute navigable for keel and flat boats, in a low stage of water, would not it is presumed, equal the sum liable to be collected as tolls from the keel and flat boats for a passage through the Canal, within the term of one year.

And be it further Resolved, That the Committee on Roads and Canals be instructed to inquire into the expediency of making an appropriation for the purpose of surveying a route for the construction of a Rail road, commencing at the Falls of the Ohio river, or at some other convenient commercial point, thence to Indianapolis, the seat of Government of the State of Indiana.

WEDNESDAY, Dec. 18.

PUBLIC LANDS.

Mr. Poindexter offered the following resolution, which lies one day on the table.

Resolved, That the Commissioner of the General Land Office be directed to communicate to the Senate.

1. The whole amount of Public Lands belonging to the United States, sold since they were ceded to the United States, exhibiting the net proceeds, and distinguishing between those which have been sold within the limits of Louisiana, Florida, and other parts of the United States, respectively, and including the latest returns.

2. The whole amount of Public Lands which have been surveyed and exposed to sale in the several States and Territories; and showing the amount sold and the amount remaining to be sold according to the last returns.

3. The amount which has been actually patented in bounties to the Army, during the late war.

4. The amount granted to each of the several States and Territories, and for what purposes.

5. The amount set apart or reserved for schools in the several States and Territories.

6. The amount granted in donations for the cultivation of the vine and olive, to Lafayette, and for all other purposes.

On motion of Mr. Poindexter, the Message of the President of the United States, assigned his reasons for returning the bill to provide for the distribution of the proceeds of the public lands &c. was referred to the Committee on Public Lands.

Mr. Clay offered the following resolutions; which lie one day on the table.

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Treasury be directed to communicate to the Senate a copy of the entire letter addressed by Mr. Crawford, when the Secretary of the Treasury, under date the 13th Feb. 1817, to the President of the Mechanics Bank of New York, an extract from which is recited in his report to Congress of the 3d December, 1833, and copies of the other correspondence of Mr. Crawford with the Banks about that period, to passages in which the Secretary alludes in the same report.

Resolved, also, That the Secretary be directed to communicate to the Senate a copy of the correspondence between the agent appointed, during the last summer, to inquire upon what terms the State Banks would undertake to perform the services to the Government which had been performed by the Bank of the United States and the said Banks; a copy of the report made, if one were made, by the agent of the Secretary, or to the Executive; the name of the agent, his compensation, and in virtue of what law he was so appointed.

Mr. Tipton offered the following resolution which lies one day on the table.

Resolved, That the committee on commerce be instructed to inquire into the expediency of making appropriations for the following objects, viz:

1st. An appropriation for constructing a ship channel to connect the waters of the river Raisin with La Plaisance Bay, in the Territory of Michigan under the direction of the War Department.

2d. An appropriation for constructing a harbor at the mouth of St. Joseph's River, on Lake Michigan, in the Michigan Territory.

3d. An appropriation to defray the expense of surveying the obstructions to the navigation of the St. Joseph River, and its tributaries, as far up as the said streams may be considered navigable.

4th. An appropriation for constructing a harbor at the mouth of Trail Creek, on Lake Michigan, in the State of Indiana.

WEDNESDAY, Dec. 18.

MEMORIAL FROM THE BANK OF THE UNITED STATES.

Mr. Binney presented the following memorial from the Bank of the United States:

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States.

The Board of Directors of the Bank of the United States respectfully represent—

That, by the Charter of the Bank, it was stipulated between the Congress of the United States and the stockholders of the Bank of the United States, in consideration of a full equivalent rendered by them, in money and in services, they were entitled to the custody of the public moneys, which were not to be withdrawn from it, until for reasons of the sufficiency of which, Congress, and Congress alone, was the final judge.

That the Bank has in all things faithfully performed the stipulations of the Charter.

Nevertheless, since the adjournment of Congress, the Secretary of the Treasury has issued an order on the 29th of Sept. last, withdrawn from the possession of the Bank, the Custom House Bonds deposited therein, and has subsequently transferred into other Banks a large portion of the Public Moneys then in the safe keeping of the Bank, with the purpose of making them hereafter the permanent depositories of the public revenue.

The Board of Directors therefore deem it their duty forthwith to apprise your honorable bodies of this violation of the chartered rights of the Stockholders, and to ask such redress therefor as to your sense of justice may seem proper. By order of the Board.

On motion of Mr. Carr.

Resolved, That the Committee on Roads and Canals be instructed to inquire into the expediency of making an appropriation, either in money or in Government lands, for the purpose of improving the great Western thoroughfare and mail route between Louisville Ky. and St. Louis, in the State of Missouri.

Be it further Resolved, That the Committee on Roads and Canals be instructed to inquire into the expediency of making an appropriation for the purpose of improving the navigation in the Indian Chute, through the Falls of the Ohio river, opposite Louisville, Ky.—a sum sufficient to accomplish which, and make the Indian Chute navigable for keel and flat boats, in a low stage of water, would not it is presumed, equal the sum liable to be collected as tolls from the keel and flat boats for a passage through the Canal, within the term of one year.

And be it further Resolved, That the Committee on Roads and Canals be instructed to inquire into the expediency of making an appropriation for the purpose of surveying a route for the construction of a Rail road, commencing at the Falls of the Ohio river, or at some other convenient commercial point, thence to Indianapolis, the seat of Government of the State of Indiana.

N. BIDDLE,

President of the Bank of the United States, Philadelphia, Dec. 9, 1833.

Mr. Binney moved that the memorial be laid on the table and printed.

Mr. Polk moved his reference to the Committee of Ways and Means, and demanded the yeas and nays on the motion for laying it upon the table.

Mr. Binney called for the reading of the memorial; and it was read accordingly.

The question then recurring upon laying it upon the table, the yeas and nays were taken, and resulted as follows—yeas 80, nays 128.

So the House refused to lay the memorial on the table.

Mr. Polk's motion for its reference to the Committee of Ways and Means being about to be put.

Mr. Chilton moved to amend it by adding instructions to the Committee to bring in a Joint Resolution ordering the Secretary to re-deposit in the Bank of the United States the public moneys which, by his order, have been removed from that institution.

Mr. Chilton addressed the House at great length in support of his motion for instructions, in a speech, the report of which, must of necessity be deferred to another day.

Mr. McDuffie, at the close of Mr. Chilton's

speech, requested him to withdraw his motion, as the decision upon it would in some measure foreclose the consideration of another motion now before the House.

Mr. Chilton, with some complimentary remarks, consented, and his motion was withdrawn accordingly.

The memorial was then referred to the Committee of Ways and Means, and ordered to be printed.

On motion of Mr. Hannegan, it was

Resolved, That the Committee on Roads and Canals be instructed to inquire into the expediency of making an appropriation for the necessary survey and construction of a harbour at the mouth of Trail Creek, on Lake Michigan.

On motion of Mr. Kinard, it was

Resolved, That the committee on Public Lands be instructed to inquire into the expediency of embracing the State of Indiana and the Territory of Michigan and Huron, in one survey, or general District, and locating the Surveyor General's office for the same, at Indianapolis in the State of Indiana.

Mr. Ewing of Indiana, offered the following:

Resolved, That the Committee of Ways and Means be instructed to inquire into the expediency of authorizing a national currency of thirty-five millions of dollars, to be founded upon the faith of the United States, and to be unconnected with, and independent of, all direct Executive control, except as may be required for the nomination of Directors; said currency to be struck, perfect, and issued, in a department of the Mint of the U. States, under regulations to secure an impartial distribution among the several States respectively, according to the representative population, of the same to be required; in virtue of the plighted faith and resources of each State, so requiring, to the United States, for its redemption according to the legal stipulation on its face, and the payment of such bonus to the Treasury of the United States, to defray expenses and to guarantee ultimate responsibility, as may be prescribed; and said currency, so authorized and loaned, according to the prescribed ratio, to States requiring its use, when loaned to the people through State instrumentalities, shall be received in payment of public lands and in payment of all other revenue accruing to the General Government, and shall be obligatory upon the State issuing the same to redeem, on demand, at her office, when established, under State guarantee, to loan and redeem said currency, shall be the place of deposit of all public money collected, or belonging to the General Government, within the limits of the State where it exists; also to inquire into the comparative expediency of establishing a National Bank based upon the specie capital, to be furnished by the several States, as sole stockholders thereof, on a scale proportionate to the representative population of each, with a Branch in each State; the institution to be regulated in strict accordance with uniform general rules adopted by Congress, under a Directory of state appointment, and each State to enjoy the benefit of a capital, and exercise a power in accordance with her vested interest therein, said committee to report by bill or otherwise.

Mr. McKim moved to lay the resolution on the table; but withdrew it at the request of the mover, who then, in a short speech, (which we regret was delivered in so low a tone of voice as to be but partially heard at the distance of the reporter's desk,) explained and supported the resolution.

Mr. McKim withdrew his motion to lay on the table.

The resolution was agreed to.

The House then, on motion of Mr. Stewart, adjourned.

GRADUATION BILL.

For the early reception of the subjoined Bill, which was reported to the House, and twice read and committed to a committee of the Whole, on the 27th ult: we are indebted to the polite attention of Hon. A. Lane.

Mr. CLAY, of Alabama, from the Committee on Public Lands, reported the following bill to reduce and graduate the price of public lands.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress Assembled, That, from and after the passage of this act, all the lands of the United States, which have been offered at public sale to the highest bidder, and have remained unsold fifteen years, or upwards, shall be subject to sale by private entry, at the rate of twenty-five cents per acre; those which have been offered in like manner, and have remained unsold ten years, and less than fifteen years, at the rate of fifty cents per acre; those which have been offered, in like manner and have remained unsold five years, and less than ten years, at the rate of seventy-five cents per acre; and those which have been offered in like manner, and have remained unsold three years, and less than five years, at the rate of one dollar per acre.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That all actual settlers upon any of the lands of the United States, at the time of any reduction of price, provided in the first and second sections of this act, shall have the right of pre-emption for the term of six months from and after the passage thereof, to any quantity not exceeding one hundred and sixty acres, or one quarter section, in any legal subdivision, to include his or her improvement, under like regulations and restrictions with those provided by an act, entitled "An act to grant pre-emption rights to settlers on the public lands," approved on the twenty-ninth of May, eighteen hundred and thirty: *Provided*, That no person shall be permitted to enter more than six hundred and forty acres, or one section in legal subdivisions, in his own name or for his own use, in the name of any person; and in no case unless he intends it for settlement, or cultivation, or the use of his improvement; and the person making application to make an entry under this act shall file his or her affidavit, under such regulations as the Secretary of the Treasury may prescribe, that he or she makes the entry in his or her own name, for his or her own benefit, and not in trust for another.

Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, That all actual settlers upon any of the lands of the United States, at the time of any reduction of price, provided in the first and second sections of this act, shall have the right of pre-emption for the term of six months from and after the passage thereof, to any quantity not exceeding one hundred and sixty acres, or one quarter section, in any legal subdivision, to include his or her improvement, under like regulations and restrictions with those provided by an act, entitled "An act to grant pre-emption rights to settlers on the public lands," approved on the twenty-ninth of May, eighteen hundred and thirty: *Provided*, That no person shall be permitted to enter more than six hundred and forty acres, or one section in legal subdivisions, in his own name or for his own use, in the name of any person; and in no case unless he intends it for settlement, or cultivation, or the use of his improvement; and the person making application to make an entry under this act shall file his or her affidavit, under such regulations as the Secretary of the Treasury may prescribe, that he or she makes the entry in his or her own name, for his or her own benefit, and not in trust for another.

Sec. 4. And be it further enacted, That all actual settlers upon any of the lands of the United States, at the time of any reduction of price, provided in the first and second sections of this act, shall have the right of pre-emption for the term of six months from and after the passage thereof, to any quantity not exceeding one hundred and sixty acres, or one quarter section, in any legal subdivision, to include his or her improvement, under like regulations and restrictions with those provided by an act, entitled "An act to grant pre-emption rights to settlers on the public lands," approved on the twenty-ninth of May, eighteen hundred and thirty: *Provided*, That no person shall be permitted to enter more than six hundred and forty acres, or one section in legal subdivisions, in his own name or for his own use, in the name of any person; and in no case unless he intends it for settlement, or cultivation, or the use of his improvement; and the person making application to make an entry under this act shall file his or her affidavit, under such regulations as the Secretary of the Treasury may prescribe, that he or she makes the entry in his or her own name, for his or her own benefit, and not in trust for another.

Sec. 5. And be it further enacted, That all actual settlers upon any of the lands of the United States, at the time of any reduction of price, provided in the first and second sections of this act, shall have the right of pre-emption for the term of six months from and after the passage thereof, to any quantity not exceeding one hundred and sixty acres, or one quarter section, in any legal subdivision, to include his or her improvement, under like regulations and restrictions with those provided by an act, entitled "An act to grant pre-emption rights to settlers on the public lands," approved on the twenty-ninth of May, eighteen hundred and thirty: *Provided*, That no person shall be permitted to enter more than six hundred and forty acres, or one section in legal subdivisions, in his own name or for his own use, in the name of any person; and in no case unless he intends it for settlement, or cultivation, or the use of his improvement; and the person making application to make an entry under this act shall