

INDIANA PALLADIUM.

By D. V. Culley & V. M. Cole.

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[NO. 51.

23d Congress.....2d Session.

WEST POINT ACADEMY.

Dec. 8. Mr. HAWES, of Ky. submitted the following resolution in the house of representatives:

Resolved, That a select committee, consisting of one member from each state to be appointed, with power to inquire into the expediency of amending the laws relating to the Military Academy at West Point, in the State of New York, or whether it would not comport with the public interest to abolish said institution.

Mr. HAWES, asked the yeas and nays on the adoption of the resolution, and they were ordered.

Mr. CLAYTON rose and remarked, that from the sound of the negatives on the question just taken, it appeared probable that this inquiry was about to be refused. He wished, therefore, to say, that there was an impression abroad that the Institution at West Point was nothing but a nursery for the children of Members of Congress and of other great men. If that was a slander upon the institution, it might be easily refuted. General and strong prejudices existed against the institution. It was believed to be conducted, not for the general benefit, but for the interest of a favored few; for the sons of military officers, members of Congress, and other government officers. This, he said, was a suspicion.—He did not assert it as a fact. But it was necessary that the proposed inquiry should be made.

Mr. HAWES said, the resolution which he had proposed a committee of one member from each State to inquire into the propriety of regulating or abolishing the West Point Academy. As had been remarked by his friend from Georgia, (Mr. CLAYTON,) there were matters in circulation with regard to this institution, which demanded a full inquiry. He would not say that his own mind was made up on the subject, but the minds of his constituents were. Gentlemen who were opposed to this inquiry, could not, he thought, condemn the course of the Bank of the United States, in refusing to show its books to the Committee of the House of Representatives: no one, he hoped, who joined in abusing the Bank for resisting an inquiry, would attempt to screen the Military Academy.

Mr. PARKER would be very willing, he said, to vote for the resolution, if the mover would strike out so much of it as refers to the abolition of the Academy.—He moved to strike out that clause, and also so much of the resolution as proposed a committee of twenty-four. He would prefer a select committee of the usual number.

Mr. SPEIGHT was opposed to the suggestion of the gentlemen from New Jersey. If, upon examination, the reports concerning the management of the institution should be found to be true, it would be necessary for the committee to report a bill to abolish it. In regard to the number of the committee, he also disagreed with the gentleman. The institution was of a general character and concerned the whole country; and it was, therefore, proper that the Committee of Inquiry should embrace a member from each State. After all the censure which had been cast upon the Bank of the United States for withholding information required from it, he hoped there would be no disposition to screen this Institution from inquiry. Last year, a resolution for this investigation was sent to the standing Committee on Military Affairs, consisting of friends to the Institution, and no examination was made. There was much complaint among the people of the neglect with which this subject was treated. He hoped that all objections to the resolution would be withdrawn.

Mr. R. M. JOHNSON, after calling for the reading of the resolution, remarked, that it was not important whether it embraced an inquiry as to the expediency of abolishing the institution or not. Whatever might be the result, it was proper that the broadest inquiry should be made. He had risen for the purpose of suggesting that, at the last session, the Committee on Military Affairs did investigate this subject, and did report upon it in the most elaborate manner. That report was laid upon the tables of members, but, such was the press of other business, he did not believe that ten members ever read it: nor that there were ten members who even knew that such a report was made. Though always reluctant to oppose any proposition coming from his worthy colleague, yet he would suggest that a Committee of twenty-four would not be as competent to present this matter to the House as a Committee of seven. He should vote against the committee of twenty-four, because it was giving too much importance to an ordinary matter. Never, since he first took his seat in Congress—and it was so long ago that his memory could scarcely run back to the time—had he known a Committee of twenty-four to be raised on more than one or two occasions. If the object was barely an inquiry, why should it not be referred to a committee of seven or nine members. He hoped his colleague would so modify his resolution that he could vote for it. He would venture to say, that notwithstanding all the rumors in regard to the Institution, (and he paid no more regard to rumor than to the idle wind) nothing prejudicial to the conduct of the Institution would be discovered upon the fullest examination, and that the more its concerns were examined into, the less fault would be found with it.

Mr. WILLIAMS, of N. C. said that he was entirely friendly to the proposed investigation, and hoped it would take place. As to the institution in question, he had always regarded it as one essential branch of our military system. To him it seemed that a gentleman might as well get up and move an inquiry into the propriety of abolishing the Army of the United States. The one was, in his judgment, as necessary to the defence of the country as the other. Yet he was in favor of the inquiry, because, if rumors were afloat through the country, to the disadvantage of the institution, they ought, by inquiry, to be confirmed or refuted. He thought, however, that the inquiry ought properly to go to the committee on Military Affairs. All matters of a military kind were referred to that Committee, as of course: and why? because it was taken for granted, that the members of that Committee were better acquainted with subjects of this description than other gentlemen of the House: and if this was true generally, why not in reference to this particular branch of our military affairs? There might be a propriety in inquiring, whether the rule at present existing in relation to the admission of candidates into the Academy, ought not to be altered. As he understood the matter, the

chief objection abroad in the country had reference to this rule. If another rule of admission would tend more equally to diffuse the benefits of the Institution, it ought certainly to be adopted. Mr. W. concluded by moving to amend the resolution, by striking out a select Committee, and inserting the Committee on Military Affairs. He said he should vote for the inquiry let it take which course it might; but he thought something was due to the general propriety of the usage of the House, in referring such subjects to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. BROWN hoped the amendment would prevail: and he trusted that no gentleman friendly to the Institution would oppose it. If injurious reports were prevailing, this would be the readiest mode of quieting them. But he was opposed to appointing a Committee of 24 Members. The most proper Committee was that on Military Affairs. As had been suggested, this Academy constituted one branch of our Military Establishment: and why disconnect it from the rest by sending it to a different Committee? All the branches of the system were closely connected: and why thus disrupt them? Why not start a separate inquiry into any other particular branch of it? He was willing, however, that the inquiry should be made, either by a Standing or Select committee: provided it was not so unwieldy as had been now proposed. He had supposed that the subject had been already investigated: and, if gentlemen would look at the report of the Military Committee of the last session, they would be convinced that such was the fact.

Mr. HAWES said, the resolution which he had proposed a committee of one member from each State to inquire into the propriety of regulating or abolishing the West Point Academy. As had been remarked by his friend from Georgia, (Mr. CLAYTON,) there were matters in circulation with regard to this institution, which demanded a full inquiry. He would not say that his own mind was made up on the subject, but the minds of his constituents were. Gentlemen who were opposed to this inquiry, could not, he thought, condemn the course of the Bank of the United States, in refusing to show its books to the Committee of the House of Representatives: no one, he hoped, who joined in abusing the Bank for resisting an inquiry, would attempt to screen the Military Academy.

Mr. PARKER would be very willing, he said, to vote for the resolution, if the mover would strike out so much of it as refers to the abolition of the Academy.—He moved to strike out that clause, and also so much of the resolution as proposed a committee of twenty-four. He would prefer a select committee of the usual number.

Mr. SPEIGHT was opposed to the suggestion of the gentlemen from New Jersey. If, upon examination, the reports concerning the management of the institution should be found to be true, it would be necessary for the committee to report a bill to abolish it.

On this question Mr. HUBBARD, of N. H. demanded the yeas and nays, which being taken, resulted as follows: Yeas 20, Nays 109. So the motion to lay on the table was negatived.

Mr. HAWES said that he was very sorry that a resolution of mere inquiry should have excited so much debate. He did not know who constituted the Committee on Military Affairs; he knew but one gentleman certainly to be a member of it (looking towards Mr. R. M. JOHNSON,) and that gentleman he would as soon trust with the present investigation, as any other which related to abuses of government, or any other individual upon the face of the earth. But the gentleman from N. York (Mr. BROWN) had stated that the Military Committee had made a full report on the subject, declaring that the affairs of the Academy were all going on extremely well. Let him then ask why it was, that that gentleman (within whose district the institution was situated) was so extremely anxious that the present inquiry should be referred to the Committee on Military Affairs? Could there be a more equitable arrangement than to entrust a subject in which all parts of the Union were so much interested, with a committee constituted of members from each State? He could conceive of none. The gentleman from Kentucky, however, (Mr. HARDIN) was strongly opposed to abolishing the school. Did this resolution propose to abolish the school? It proposed an inquiry and nothing more.

An honorable gentleman that from N. C. (Mr. WILLIAMS,) was of opinion that this Academy was essentially connected with the military defence of the country. Mr. H. II's opinion was diametrically the reverse. This school was not necessarily connected with it, at least as at present conducted: it had little or nothing to do with it. As to the gentleman from Ky. (Mr. HARDIN,) he would not act upon floating rumor: he must have a specific charge, or he would do nothing. Well, the gentleman should have a specific charge. Mr. H. would state this specific charge against this institution—that a relative of that gentleman, a gentleman of wealth and standing in the country, had been admitted to receive its advantages and benefits, while hundreds and thousands of the children of the poor were excluded from any participation in them. The gentleman had now a specific charge to go upon.

Mr. MANN, of N. York, said, that it seemed to be generally conceded that an inquiry ought to be made.—He was in favor of such an inquiry, but he was for going further, and extending the inquiry to one or two other abuses in the management of our military concerns. If it was in order, he should move that the Committee of Investigation extend their labors a little further; for it was always desirable that, in matters of this kind, as large a field should be embraced as possible. He had no doubt that mal-administration existed at West Point: as one evidence of which, he learned from the official reports on that subject, that it cost this Government between 5 and 6000 dollars to educate an officer for the Army of the United States. Surely such an enormous expenditure as this for each cadet ought to be looked into. Although the School was located within his own state, Mr. M. could never sanction a scale of expense like this.

Mr. MANN then moved an amendment to the last amendment proposing that the Committee be also instructed to inquire into the expediency of abolishing the office of Major General Commanding in Chief; and apportioning more equitably the pay, rations, and emoluments of the general officers of the Army.

The CHAIR reminded Mr. MANN that this could not be received until the amendment to the amendment now under consideration was disposed of.

Mr. MANN said that he would then, offer his amendment as soon as it should be in order. He understood that the Commander-in-chief now re-

ceived, in pay, rations, and one way or another, in all about 10,000 dollars a year. Although he was friendly to the individual who now filled the office, he knew of no reason why the emoluments should be so disproportionately large. It was double the pay of the Heads of the Department.

The CHAIR here again interposed to remind Mr. MANN, that as the amendment was not before the House, remarks upon it were out of order.

Mr. MANN then observed that he was generally in favor of sending important subjects to the Standing Committees of the House, but as the mover of the inquiry complained that the Military Committee had not given the subject their attention, he was willing that it should go to a Select Committee, though not so large a one as the gentleman was in favor of.

Mr. WARD observed, that the Committee on Military Affairs had not omitted or refused to give the subject their fullest attention. On the contrary, it had excited the gravest discussion, which discussion had issued in the presentation of one of the ablest reports the Committee had ever made. As notwithstanding this, the inquiry was still renewed, he, as one of the members of the Military Committee, should greatly prefer that the subject should be sent to some other Committee. But he trusted the honorable gentleman, before he sent an investigation of this kind, to any Committee of that House, would designate the specific charges which they were to examine into. Let him specify the abuses, if any existed. And he further hoped, that if the matter went to a select Committee, it would be one of the usual dimensions, consisting of 7 or 9 members.

The question being now put on the amendment proposed by Mr. WILLIAMS, to substitute the Committee on Military Affairs, for a Select Committee of 24 members, it was decided in the negative—Ayes 76, Nays 98.

The question next recurring on the amendment proposed by Mr. PARKER, to strike out that part of the resolution which required the Committee to consist of one member from each State, and also that clause which required the Committee to inquire into the expediency of abolishing the school entirely.

Mr. HUBBARD demanded that the question be divided. It was divided accordingly—and the questions being put separately were both negatived. The resolution was then adopted; yeas 182, nays 27.

IN SENATE—Dec. 11. In pursuance of the resolution passed yesterday, the Senate proceeded to ballot for its Standing Committees; and the ballots resulted in the choice of the following gentlemen, to serve for the present session.

Foreign Relations.—Mr. Clay, Chairman; Messrs. King of Georgia, Mangum, Sprague, Tallmadge.

Committee on Finance.—Mr. Webster, Chairman; Messrs. Wright, Tyler, Mangum, Ewing.

Committee on Commerce.—Mr. Silsbee, Chairman; Messrs. King of Ala. Waggoner, Sprague, Wright.

Committee on Manufactures.—Mr. Frelinghuysen, Chairman; Messrs. Morris, Knight, Prentiss, Tyler.

Committee on Agriculture.—Mr. Brown, Chairman; Messrs. Kent, Swift, Robinson, Morris.

Committee on Military Affairs.—Mr. Benton, Chairman; Messrs. Tipton, Preston, King of Ala. Clayton.

Committee on Public Lands.—[The Committee on the Public Lands of the last session was continued for the present session, by an unanimous vote passed during the last week. The members consist of Messrs. Poindexter, (Chairman,) Moore, Prentiss, McKean, and Clay.]

Committee on Indian Affairs.—Mr. White, Chairman; Messrs. Tipton, Smith, Swift, Frelinghuysen.

Committee on Claims.—Mr. Bell, Chairman; Messrs. Tipton, Naudain, Brown, Shephy.

Committee on Post Office and Post Roads.—[The Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads of the last session was continued for the present session, by resolution passed unanimously, during the last week. The members consist of Messrs. Grundy, (Chairman,) Ewing, Robinson, Knight, Southard.]

Committee on Roads and Canals.—Mr. Hendricks, Chairman; Messrs. Kent, Robinson, Robins, McLean.

[HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Dec. 11.

On motion of Mr. McCARTY.

Resolved, That the Committee on Roads and canals be instructed to inquire into the expediency of a grant of a section of land for each mile on each side of a road leading from Lawrenceburgh to Fort Wayne, in Indiana, to White Pigeon, in Michigan Territory, to be applied to the construction of said road; and also of a like appropriation for a road leading from Oxford, in Ohio, by Liberty, Milton, New Castle, Munceytown, and the forks of the Wabash, in Indiana, to Lake Michigan Territory, at or near the mouth of the St. Joseph's river.

On motion of Mr. KINNARD,

Resolved, That the Committee on Private Land Claims be instructed to inquire into the expediency of making provision by law for refunding to purchasers of the public lands, the overplus of purchase money paid by them in cases where it shall appear that the satisfaction of the Commissioners of the General Land Office that there is a deficiency in the number of acres patented to such purchasers.

IN SENATE—December 15.

On motion of Mr. HENDRICKS,

Resolved, That the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads be instructed to inquire into the expediency of establishing the following post roads in the State of Indiana: From Bedford in Lawrence co. via Bloomfield, to Bowling Green, in Clay county, to Lewisville, in Henry county. From Winchester, in Randolph county, via Mississinewa, to Fort Wayne, in Allen county. From Greensburgh, in Decatur county, by Edmon's Mill, Huntsville, Goshen, and Newburn, to Columbus, in Bartholomew county. From South Bend, by Edwardsburgh, Whitmanville, Vinton, Schoolcraft, Bronson, and Gum river Plain, to the Raids of Grand river, in Michigan territory. From Lawrenceburgh, in Dearborn county, to Versailles and Napoleon in Ripley county, by way of Aurora, Wilmington, and Moor's Hill. From New Castle, in Henry co. to Munceytown, in Delaware county. From

Strawtown, in Hamilton county, to Kirk's Cross Roads, in Clinton county; thence by Frankfort and Dayton, to Lafayette. From Brownstown, in Jackson county, by way of Sage's Ferry, on the Muscatatuck, and York, on the State Road, to Charlestown, in Clark county. From Shelbyville, in Shelby county, by way of Manwarring's on Sugar creek, Greenwood Post Office, Port Royal and Mooresville, to David Lindley's in Monroe township, in Morgan county. From Rising Sun, in Dearborn county, via James' Mills, Dillsborough, and Watts' Mills, to Cross Plains, in Ripley county. From Charlestown, in Clark county, to New Providence, in the same county. From Martinsville in Morgan county, by way of Lyon's Mills, Mooresville, Danville, and Lebanon, to Frankfort, in Clinton county. From Putnamville, in Putman county, via Dixon's Mills, Rockville, Montezuma, in Park county, and Hill's Green, in Vermillion co. to Bloomfield, in Edgar county in the State of Illinois. From Bowling Green, in Clay co. via New Brunswick and Caledonia, to Carlisle, in Sullivan co. From Charlestown, in Clark co. by way of Vienna, in Scott co., and State Ford, on the Muscatatuck, to Rockford, in Jackson co. From Napoleon, in the co. of Ripley, Indiana, through Versailles, Cross Plains, Mount Sterling, Vevay, Ghent and Owington, to Georgetown, in Scott county, Kentucky.

On motion of Mr. TIPTON.

Resolved, That the Committee on Commerce be instructed to inquire into the expediency of making an appropriation for the construction of a harbour at Trail creek, on Lake Michigan, in the State of Indiana.

The following resolution was submitted by Mr. LANE:

Resolved, That the committee on Roads and Canals be instructed to inquire into the expediency of appropriating the refuse lands belonging to the United States which shall have been offered at public sale, and been subject to entry for twenty years and upwards, and shall remain unsold on the first day of January next, situate in the counties of Franklin, Dearborn, Ripley and Switzerland, and so much of Decatur as is attached to the Jeffersonville district, in the State of Indiana, for the purpose of constructing and improving a road from the town of Fairfield in the said county of Franklin, by the way of Brookville, to Lawrenceburgh, on the Ohio river, in Dearborn county; and a road from Rushville, in the county of Rush, by the way of Sunman's, to the same point upon the Ohio river; and a road from Napoleon, in the county of Ripley, to Aurora, on the Ohio river, in the county of Dearborn; and from Napoleon to Rising Sun, upon the Ohio river; and from Napoleon to Vevay, by the way of Versailles, in Switzerland county, on the Ohio river; and a road from Napoleon aforesaid to Lawrenceburgh aforesaid, to be sold in such manner, and by such persons, and at such times, and the money expended in such manner as the President of the United States shall be pleased to order or direct.

The question being taken on agreeing to the resolution it was negatived.

Human weight and height. From observations recently made in Europe, it appears that the average weight of male infants at birth is about 61 lbs., and the height 1 foot 5 inches. The average weight of females at birth is a fraction less than 6 lbs., and the height 1 foot 5 1/2 inches. These facts seem to prove that there is a natural inequality in the two sexes, both as respects weight and height.

From birth to the age of seven days, the infant

is said to lose in weight. From this time, however, its weight increases. This, if true, is a very curious circumstance.

Man attains his greatest weight at 40, and begins

to lose very sensibly at 60; woman does not

attain her greatest weight till 50; but she does

not appear to gain perceptibly from the age of 18 to 40.

Both sexes at the period of complete development, weigh about twenty times as much as they did at birth.

In old age both sexes lose about 10 or 12 pounds

of their weight, and three quarters of an inch in height.

The average weight of adult males, according to the foregoing estimate, is about, 130; that of females a little less than 120. The average weight of males (old and young taken altogether) is 196 pounds; that of an individual without any reference either to age or sex, 91 pounds.

The height of the Lapplanders and Patagonians—the two extremes of the human race—is as follows:

The Lapplander is from 4 to 5 feet 6 inches high. His average height is not far from 4 feet, and