

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

**IN SENATE—Jan. 2.** The VICE PRESIDENT laid before the Senate a communication from the Secretary of State, relative to the Diplomatic expenses of that department for the past year.

Also, a communication from the Secretary of the Treasury in obedience to a resolution of the Senate, relative to the number of navy and military bounty land warrants which had been issued. Referred to the committee on Public Lands.

The following resolution was submitted by Mr. ROBINSON, and adopted:

**Resolved,** That the Secretary of the Treasury be directed to lay before the Senate a copy of the report of the commissioners of the survey and establishment of the northern boundary line of the State of Illinois, together with copies of all papers upon that subject.

Mr. KENT submitted the following resolution:

**Resolved,** That the committee on military affairs inquire into the propriety of authorizing the Secretary of War to purchase the property adjoining Fort McHenry, now rented by the public for the accommodation of the garrison.

Mr. KING, of Georgia, pursuant to notice, on leave given, introduced a bill to establish a mail route in East Florida.

Mr. KING, of Ala., pursuant to notice, and on leave given, introduced a bill granting pre-emption rights to settlers on the public lands; both of which were read twice and referred.

Mr. KANE moved, that when the Senate adjourn it adjourn to meet on Monday next, which was agreed to.

The following resolution submitted by Mr. POINDEXTER on Tuesday last, was taken up for consideration:

**Resolved,** That the Secretary of the Senate be, and he is hereby directed to cause to be prepared and laid before the Senate, manuscript maps of the several States of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Mississippi, Alabama, and Louisiana, and the Territories of Michigan, Arkansas, and Florida; which maps shall contain plats of the Public Lands, within the aforesaid States and Territories, which have been surveyed under the authority of the United States, marking upon the maps aforesaid, the lands the Indian title to which is not extinguished, and distinguishing by colors upon the maps aforesaid the lands granted to the army; the lands sold by the United States; the lands granted to each of the said States and Territories for the endowment of colleges, or reserved from sale for the use of schools; or confirmed to persons claiming under British, French, or Spanish titles; and also the lands surveyed as aforesaid, remaining unsold; stating likewise the computed number of acres of each of the enumerated classes of lands, and the number of acres which may have been surrendered to the United States under any law passed for the relief of purchasers of the public lands. And that Charles Gordon, who was employed in making the aforesaid maps, under a resolution of the Senate, of the 28th of February, 1823, and who has made some progress in the work, be continued in said service until the maps herein directed to be made out are completed.

Mr. WRIGHT expressed a hope that this resolution might not be pressed this morning. It had not attracted his attention till now, and therefore he was not prepared to vote upon it. A similar resolution had been passed, he believed, some years ago, requiring the Secretary of the Treasury to form a similar work to that contemplated by the resolution, and some progress had been made in it. He, Mr. W., desired to inquire whether the Secretary of the Senate had it in his power to prepare it, and next, what the probable expense would be; he was ignorant of the effect which the resolution was calculated to have, and whether the work was to be performed.

Mr. POINDEXTER said, that the resolution was submitted at the instance of the Committee on Public Lands. It was to furnish a work, which should present a complete view of all the States and Territories, in which the public lands were situated, as well as of the several surveys and grants of lands made. The Secretary of the Treasury was not the agent of the Senate, and if done by the Secretary of the Senate the expense of it would form a part of the contingent expense. He had no objection to the reference to the Secretary of the Treasury, but he thought the honorable member (Mr. Wright,) would perceive the importance of the resolution; he had no objection that it should lie for a short time; indeed, he had rather, it would take that course.

The resolution was laid on the table, and, on motion of Mr. POINDEXTER, it was ordered to be printed.

The bill to regulate navy rations was taken up for consideration, and, on motion of Mr. POINDEXTER, was laid on the table.

The bill making an appropriation for the improvement of the river Wabash, being under consideration as in committee of the Whole—

Mr. HENDRICKS spoke at length in support of the bill.

When Mr. HENDRICKS had concluded—

Mr. HILL remarked that as the Senate was not full, he thought the bill had better be laid on the table, and made a motion to that effect, which was disagreed to.

The question being on the engrossment of the bill for a third reading—

Mr. HILL demanded the yeas and nays, which were ordered.

Before the question was taken—

Mr. POINDEXTER said he had no difficulty whatever in giving his vote upon this bill. But he wished it to be understood that he did not yield his assent to the distinction, on the score of constitutionality, taken by the President, between the improvement of a river which led to a port of entry, and one upon which there was no port of entry. He would by no vote of his, sanction such a senseless distinction.

The President had repeatedly signed bills for appropriations to improve rivers upon which there were no ports of entry. He had approved an appropriation to the Red river, where there was nothing but wolves and bears, and if a port of entry had been established there, he (Mr. P.) would be at a loss to know what wild animal of the forest would be appointed there as the receiver. The objection alluded to had neither the constitution nor common sense to support it. It was one of those refined distinctions which were peculiar to a certain party of the present day.

The question being on the engrossment of the bill, it was determined in the affirmative by the following vote:

**YEAS—**Messrs. Benton, Clay, Clayton, Ewing, Frelinghuysen, Hendricks, Kane, Kent, Knight, Linn, Naudain, Poindexter, Porter, Robbins, Silsbee, Smith, Swift, Tipton, Tomlinson, Waggoner, Webster.—22.

**NAYS—**Bibb, Black, Brown, Buchanan, Calhoun, Grundy, Hill, King of Ala., King of Georgia, Leigh, Mangum, Moore, Morris, Preston, Shepley, Tallmadge, White, Wright.—18.

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Jan. 2.**

Mr. FOULTON, from the Committee on Claims, Mr. KINNARD, from the Committee on Private Land Claims, Mr. TOMPKINS, from the Committee on Revolutionary Pensions, and Mr. FOSTER, from the Committee on the Judiciary, made favorable reports upon various petitions, &c. referred to said Committees.

Mr. MERCER, from the Committee on Roads and Canals, reported a bill to amend an act granting to the State of Alabama, certain relinquished and unappropriated lands for the purpose of improving the navigation of the Coosa, Black Warrior, and other rivers in said State; which was read twice and committed.

The resolution submitted on Tuesday by Mr. THOMAS, of Maryland, to amend the 13th rule of the House so as to include among those who are admitted to the privileged seats within the Hall, the District Attorneys of the United States, was taken up.

Mr. FOSTER remarked, that some of the District Attorneys, and particularly the one who resided in this City, had frequently important business to transact with the members of the Judiciary Committee, and from their exclusion from the Hall, they were compelled to have members called out of the House. By the adoption of the resolution, it would probably not add more than two persons at any time to those who already possessed privilege of the House.

Mr. PATTON moved to amend the resolution, by including also members of the State Legislature.

Mr. BEATTY suggested that the Judge of State Courts should be embraced in the proposition to amend.

Mr. PATTON modified his amendment as requested.

The amendment, as modified, was then disagreed to—yeas 68, nays 70.

Mr. HARDIN moved to lay the resolution on the table; but withdrew the motion at the request of

Mr. THOMAS, of Md., who explained the reasons which had induced him to offer the resolution, which were in substance the same as those which had been given by the gentleman from Georgia, (Mr. Foster.) He could not conceive how the adoption of the resolution could possibly incommode any gentleman, as a very limited number of persons would be able to avail themselves of the privilege which it granted.

Mr. HARDIN was opposed to enlarging the rule on this subject. It had already been carried too far. He could not possibly see what business the Auditors, the Register of the Treasury, and some others could have in this House. He did not object to the resolution because he was opposed to the admission of the accomplished attorney for the district of Columbia, into the Hall; but because he was opposed to enlarging a rule which already had the effect of rendering it almost impossible for members to hear what was going on in the Hall. He was a member of the Judiciary Committee, and was not aware that the District Attorney for this District, had ever called on that committee on any business connected with his public duties. The fact was, innumerable applications were made to this House for claims, and the members were continually importuned by lawyers who resided in this city, who were paid a fee for so doing, by claimants. He submitted it to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. Thomas) if this was not the leading motive which had caused this application on the part of the Attorney of this District.

[Mr. THOMAS said, he was not aware that such was the case. He believed it was not.]

Mr. HARDIN continued. He was satisfied this was one of the motives, if not the leading one, which had induced the application.

Mr. BURGESS would have been gratified if the amendment which proposed to admit members of the Legislatures upon the floor of the House, had prevailed. It was due to them from the situations which they held. As, however, they are to be excluded, he was not in favor of admitting the District Attorneys. He felt mortified, that this District, after all the liberality which had been extended to it by Congress, should think it necessary to send an attorney to supervise the proceedings of this House.

Mr. VANDERPOEL, remarked, that by a liberal construction of the rule, heretofore, it was believed that members of the State Legislature were entitled to the privilege of the House. By the vote on the amendment proposed by the gentleman from Virginia, (Mr. F. T.) a different construction had been given to the rule. As the members of the State Legislatures were excluded, he should feel bound to vote for the exclusion of the District Attorneys. If, however, the vote in relation to the former could be reconsidered, he would willingly vote to admit both classes to the privileged seats in the House.

Mr. MILLER concurred in the remarks of the gentleman from Rhode Island and New York, (Messrs. Burges and Vanderpoel.) He moved to amend the resolution so as to include members of the State Legislatures and District Attorneys, which varied from the amendment which had been rejected, but not including Judges.

Mr. HARDIN moved to lay the resolution and amendment on the table, which was agreed to—Yea 108, nays not counted.

MR. HAMER. We are much pleased to observe the following portion of the proceedings of Congress, and the more so that Mr. Hamer, from our own State, has taken the lead in this matter, in the House of Representatives. Let the Whigs, who no doubt will oppose it, now show themselves as practical men, and it may pass.—We have had enough of their professions to tempt us to disbelieve any thing emanating therefrom.

**Resolved,** That the Select Committee to whom was referred so much of the President's Message as relates to the election of the President and Vice President of the United States, be instructed to inquire into the expediency of amending the Constitution as to provide for the election of President and Vice President by a direct vote of the People in districts; the number of districts in each State to be equal to the number of Senators and Representatives to which each State may be entitled in Congress, and each district having one vote; the election of said officers in no event to devolve upon Congress; no person who has been elected President to be again eligible to that office; and that no Senator or Representative shall be nominated or appointed to any office of trust, honor, or profit, under the authority of the United States whilst holding a seat in Congress.

**Melancholy.** A distressing accident occurred in Brownville, on Monday the 5th inst. Mr. Gregory Beaubies, of Linnell's Island, Orleans, had been in that village on that day, and after transacting his business, started for home. He had proceeded but about four miles, when his horse became restive and threw him—his foot hung in the stirrup, and he was dragged a considerable distance over the frozen ground, and was finally released by being drawn between two logs on the road side, which caused the girth of the saddle to break. Mr. B. was shortly afterwards taken up, in a horridly maimed condition. He lingered until Wednesday and expired.

*Watertown Register.*

**From the N. Y. Times, Dec. 25.****LATE FROM ENGLAND.**

The Packet Ship George Washington, Capt. Holdridge, arrived at this port yesterday from Liverpool, bringing papers to Nov. 24. Their contents are interesting. In England **Lord Wellington has been appointed Premier.** The announcement of this event caused, as might have been expected, the utmost excitement throughout the country, and meetings have been called in every direction to take strong measures in regard to it. The dissolution of the late Ministry appears to have originated entirely with the King, as it is confidently asserted that Lord Melbourne and his colleagues were prepared to remain in office, and to propose a statesman for the King's approval to fill the situation of Chancellor of the Exchequer. Lord Wellington appears to experience much difficulty in forming a new Cabinet, as more than a week had elapsed from the time of his appointment to the date of our last advices without his having done so. It is proposed in some of the London and other journals to revive the Political Unions, and a tremendous and overwhelming opposition appears to be forming in London, Glasgow, Dublin, and other places against the contemplated administration.

The bill to appoint a commission to hear and adjust the claims for French spoliations of American property, prior to 1800, and to make a partial appropriation for carrying it into effect, has occupied much of the Senate's deliberation. These claims are of course of more than 34 years' standing. They have been before Congress the greater part of that time. They are said to amount to **five millions of dollars.** They are based upon seizures alleged to have been illegally made upon the vessels and cargoes of American citizens, by the French, during that most violent period of the revolution. The claims were early submitted to the French government by the American Ministers, for indemnification. But their justice was never admitted by that government. In negotiating the treaty of purchase of the Louisiana country that government embraced a favorable opportunity, to close the door against further negotiation on a claim it had from the first determined not to sanction. Through the stipulations of that treaty is the validity of these claims, long forgotten except in the files of Congress now urged.

They are resisted upon the principle that the French government never admitted, in any direct form, their justice or obligation; and that the United States received no consideration by that treaty out of which to pay the indemnities, but that the article referring them, was inserted rather to foreclose a question which both governments could never be amicably settled by direct negotiation, than by any substantial considerations on either side. Buonaparte saw that Louisiana was beyond the reach of his defence; and that his enemy Great Britain might arrest it from him, by her command of the ocean, at any moment. He preferred that it should fall into the hands of the United States, than those of his enemy. He therefore determined to enrich his Treasury, by selling to this country that which he saw he could no longer keep, and which must otherwise without enriching him, fall an easy prize to Great Britain. He told his minister, Marbois, whom he selected to negotiate its sale, to **take fifty millions of francs—negotiate it, and speedily.** The French minister set the price at 80,000,000 francs, the United States proposed 60,000,000. Marbois accepted the 60,000,000 francs which were to be paid into the French treasury, provided the United States would allow the further nominal sum of 20,000,000 francs, as a quietus to the further agitation of her oft rejected claims for spoliations. The additional 20,000,000 francs was admitted, as is now alleged by those opposed to the claims, upon the principle that substantial indemnity from France was hopeless.—And that it was deemed necessary to close a negotiation, which was deemed, otherwise, and certainly was very advantageous to this country, by admitting a nominal sum for the relinquishment of claims which would never have been really obtained. The equity of the claims depend upon the probabilities whether France would or would not have admitted them if they had been pressed on.

The Judiciary committee in the Senate, to whom was referred the bill to establish the Northern boundary of Ohio reported the same back without amendment. The chairman, Mr. Clayton, has given notice that he would call up the bill at an early day. This bill is the most important of any question before Congress to Ohio.

The House has occupied much of its time in committee, on the bill to equalize the pay of the officers of the Navy. This bill to speak in congressional phrase, (and I use the word Congressional as being more American than the word Parliamentary) has been nursed to death by the solicitude of its friends. The pay of all the officers is raised from one half to double their present salary. Admitting that some might have been too low, and that all should be properly paid, the bill has been so amended by the friends of the different grades of officers that the whole should be lost. As I was passing to the House on Saturday, a gentleman came busting by who was met at the time by an acquaintance, and to a question, why he was hurrying so rapidly to the House, replied, that the Navy Bill would be up, and he had two sons in the Navy and wanted the wages raised.

A debate of some warmth took place on a resolution of Mr. Lincoln, calling on the President to lay before the House, such documents as he might deem proper, relative to the disputed boundary between the United States and Great Britain, on the borders of Maine. The resolution, and the fact of its being offered by a member from another state, without consulting any member from Maine, was commented on in a rapid manner by Mr. Parks of that State. What gave more point to this part of the debate, and part of it was intended for "sharp shooting" was the fact that a correspondence had passed between those men as the Governors of Massachusetts and Maine, relative to the manner in which the jurisdiction of Maine should be maintained by state authorities at the very commencement of this Madawaska question. The two speakers appeared to understand the subject, and each other.—The resolution was finally adopted by a vote of yeas 86, nays 79. This boundary question, as was set forth in the late Message was still under negotiation agreeably to certain regulations which were entered into during Mr. Adams' administration. It is most probable, as was suggested in the debate, that the president will deem it improper to communicate the papers relating to it, while it is in its present, unfinished stage of negotiation.

Winter, stern winter has come upon us in all its inclemency and stormy rigor. During last evening and to-day snow has fallen 18 or 20 inches deep. With its depth and drift, the streets and alleys are almost impassable. No mail reached here this afternoon from the West—doubtless prevented by the snow. The snow is supposed to be deep on the mountains. The mail may be expected to be irregular until they are opened.

**Partridges.** The editor of the Germantown Telegraph is authorised to offer 37½ cents a pair for two hundred and fifty live and uninjured partridges—the object being to turn them out in the Spring.

Brooks in his last letter from Washington, writes that he is informed by Mr. Hendricks, of Indiana, that the Whigs have a majority of from 13 to 16 in the Legislature of that State.

**WASHINGTON, Dec. 29, 1834.****Mr. Culley, Editor of the Palladium:**

SIR:—Inclosed is the report of the committee on the Public Lands, to whom was referred the resolution I had the honor of submitting to the House, at the last, and the present session of congress, together with many other memorials of Legislatures, and resolutions from other western members, some of a special, others of a general nature; from all of which have resulted the report and bill annexed.

This bill has been made the special order of the day for the first Monday of January next. It involves a subject of awakening interest to the people of Indiana. Upon its final success in whole or in part, greatly depends the independence, prosperity, and happiness of thousands of our interesting, virtuous and patriotic; but less fortunate portion of our fellow citizens.

So deeply am I impressed with its importance, that you may rest assured, Sir, it shall not fail to be urged upon the consideration of congress, while I shall be honored with a seat upon this floor.

Please give this, and the Bill, if not the Report, a place in your paper.

A. LANE.

The report alluded to is necessarily omitted this week. It will be attended to hereafter. *Ed Pat.*

**A BILL**

To reduce and graduate the price of the 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; 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 the lands of the United States, which may be hereafter offered at public sale to the highest bidder, and shall have remained unsold three years, and less than five years, shall be subject to sale, by private entry, at the rate of one dollar per acre; those which shall have remained unsold five years, or upwards, at the rate of seventy-five cents per acre; those which shall have remained unsold ten years, and less than fifteen years, at the rate of fifty cents per acre; and those which shall have remained unsold fifteen years, or upwards, at the rate of twenty-five cents per acre.*

*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 for 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 said reduction, to any quantity not exceeding one hundred and sixty acres, or one quarter section, in any legal subdivision, to include him 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 in the name of any other person for his own use; and in no case, unless he intends it for settlement, or cultivation, or the use of his improvement; and the*