

## Indiana Legislature.

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Tuesday, December 29.

On the subject of internal improvements, sundry resolutions containing instructions to the committee have been adopted in the House of Representatives, and so far as developments have yet been made there would seem to be but little opposition to a general system of internal improvements. The committee of the House of Representatives have been in session on the subject, and we learn that their proceedings, so far, have been very harmonious and unanimous. We are informed that it has been determined to constitute a Board of Internal Improvements, consisting of nine members, to be appointed by the Governor, subject to the approval or rejection of the Senate, and to be removed by joint resolution of both Houses. We have not understood what works the committee propose to recommend to state patronage, but presume a good many will be embraced, as the sum proposed to be borrowed will be something like twelve millions of dollars. A bill on this subject will probably be reported in the House of Representatives on Monday or Tuesday next.

POSTSCRIPT.—Since the above was written we are informed that there was no disagreement of opinion as to the propriety of continuing the Wabash and Erie Canal, and authorizing a speedy commencement of the White river and White water canals.

Mr. Vawter, chairman of the committee on roads, yesterday, reported a bill, providing for a loan, for twenty years, at 5 per cent. per annum, in anticipation of the three per cent. found, of \$500,000 dollars, to be divided equally between the several counties, which will give about \$6000 dollars to each county. The report accompanying the bill we shall give at length hereafter. The bill was twice read, when Mr. Vawter moved that it be committed to a committee of the whole House and made the special order of the day for Monday next. Mr. Davis moved to lay it on the table. After a desultory debate of some length, in which Messrs. Vawter, Davis, Evans, Smith of Ripley, Ray, and Johnston participated, Mr. Davis withdrew his motion to lay on the table. Mr. Vawter then modified his motion so as to make it the order of the day for next Monday week. Mr. Ray moved to refer the bill to the committee on canals and internal improvements, which motion was supported by Mr. Eggleston, Mr. Morris, Mr. Ray, Mr. Bennett, and Mr. Johnston, and opposed by Mr. Evans, Mr. Vawter, and Mr. Smith of Ripley, and was decided in the negative. Those gentlemen who supported the reference of the bill to the committee on canals and internal improvements, urged it on the ground that the committee might so connect it with the internal improvement bill as to provide for the improvement of roads in those parts of the state which cannot be accommodated by the canals and rail roads. The bill was finally committed to a committee of the whole House and made the order of the day for tomorrow.

The whole of yesterday afternoon in the House was occupied in the consideration of the case of Mr. Nave. The papers in the case having been read, Mr. Nave was permitted to make his defence, when William Quarles, Esq., in his behalf, addressed the House between two and three hours; and, not being able to complete his argument, the House adjourned. The case will probably be resumed and finished this morning.

On Tuesday afternoon the House was engaged in the consideration of a joint resolution, proposing to suspend the operation of the ad valorem law of last winter.

Wednesday the subject of a change in the present Probate system, was agitated in the House, by calling from the table a resolution offered by Mr. Lee of Bartholomew, some days since; which proposes to transfer the business of that Court to the Circuit Courts—to provide for three terms in each year, and to set apart in each term, a certain number of days for the transaction of Probate business, and increasing the salaries of the President Judge. A proposition was made by Mr. Nave to amend, varying the resolution in some degree, the exact purport of which he did not understand. Mr. Chamberlain moved to amend the resolution, so as to contemplate an increase of the number of terms to three or four, as the committee on judiciary might deem expedient, and a reduction of the territorial extent of the several Circuits, and the setting apart of one or more of the terms for the consideration of Probate and Chancery business. This proposition Mr. Chamberlain supported at length, showing the expediency of such a system—calculated, as he thought, to answer all the ends of justice and promote an expeditious and healthful despatch of the important business coming within the purview of the Probate Courts. He was unwilling to vote for the resolution, without the adoption of this amendment proposed. With it he hoped the matter would go to the committee, and there receive such consideration as its importance imperatively demanded. Mr. Brown remarked, that the more proper course to be pursued would be, to lay the resolution, with the pending amendment, upon the table, or to refer the whole subject to judiciary committee. The proposition for a change in our Probate system was already presented to that committee, in the broadest manner, not only by a reference of so much of the Governor's message as relates thereto, but also by a resolution, offered by himself and adopted by the House, inquiring into the propriety of transferring all the business and powers now enjoyed and exercised by the Probate Court, to Chancellors, or Probate Circuit Court. The common law and Chancery jurisdiction of the Circuit Courts might be separated, and the latter transferred, with the Probate business, to a Probate Circuit Judge. He preferred the latter course. There appeared to prevail but one opinion, with regard to the necessity of a change, and he preferred a distinct and separate Court to the proposed transfer to the President Judges of our Circuit Courts. With the increasing property of our State, our Probate Courts are necessarily engaged in a greater amount of business and of higher importance. Its transactions should, therefore, be confined to individuals, in every respect qualified to discharge the sacred trusts devolving upon them. At the proper time, and on some future occasion, it would be more proper to discuss the merits of this question than at present. The committee have the subject under consideration, and upon their report the field would be opened for the freest debate. He hoped, therefore, that amendment might not prevail. Mr. Vawter concurred with Mr. Brown. He said he was prepared to go for the Circuit Probate Court system, and would do so when presented to the House for definite action. The question was taken on the adoption of the amendment and disagreed to. The resolution was amended, on motion of Mr. Evans, by striking it out from the resolving clause, and inserting one proposing the establishment of Probate Circuit Courts, and a Master of Chancery in the several counties. The resolution, as amended, was then adopted, and the matter sent to the committee for consideration and report.

Mr. Clark of Washington introduced a resolution requesting the Governor to lay before the House, at as early a day as practicable, the amount of money borrowed for banking and canalling purposes, for which the faith of the state has been pledged, and the cost of the surveys made under his direction during the last year.

Mr. Evans objected to the adoption of the resolution, as did also Mr. Davis, as they thought a statement of that kind might excite the alarm of some individuals, who are not fully informed as to the whole matter, and in that event such a course might prove prejudicial to the contemplated system of internal improvements. They would not object, if an entire statement could be made, which would require great time and labor of the Executive, and then the information required could only be given in part, as a portion of the surveys, &c., made during the past summer and fall, were made under the superintendence of the Commissioners of the Wabash and Erie canal.

Mr. Clark observed, that he only wished the information—that if he embarked the state in the proposed system of improvements, he would like to know the situation of her means, so as to calculate accordingly. He was uninformed on that subject, and did not imagine that there would be any thing so terrible in the information as the gentleman would imagine.

Mr. Vawter avowed his intention to support the resolution. He thought the information would produce a contrary effect to that supposed. That the course taken by former legislatures with regard to the State Bank, making surveys, &c. would stand as lasting monuments of their political discernment. It would not produce any alarm, but he was confident it would disclose such flattering prospects, that an additional strength would be given to the friends of Internal Improvement. Mr. Evans withdrew his opposition to the adoption of the resolution.

Mr. Smith of R. proposed to amend the resolution, so as to make the information given, to be on the subject generally—expenses, loans and probable advantages. The resolution, however, was for the time laid on the table.

With the rank of Charge d'Affaires, will be instructed by his Government to follow Mr. Barton's example, if he has not already been sent out of the country by the President's orders. A non-intercourse act on the part of America, followed by reprisals on the part of France, is considered still more inevitable.

The French Government flatter themselves that the people of the United States will suffer nearly as much as France under this system of *quasi-hostility*, and that moreover, they will be much less patient under their want of French wines and French silks, and of a market for their cotton and tobacco, than the people of France will be under corresponding disadvantages.

BOURSE, Nov. 7, Quarter to 4 P. M.

The Three per Cents. look downwards at Tortion's this morning, and at the opening of the Bourse they were at \$1f. 15c., sellers. The news that the Charge d'Affairs of the U. States had demanded his passport has made but little impression at the Bourse, several brokers having made considerable purchases. The Three per Cents. got up to \$1f. 35c.

PARIS, Nov. 7.

Mr. Barton, who has hitherto performed the functions of Charge d'Affairs of the United States, at Paris, decided to leave this city on Monday. It is said to be in consequence of the refusal of M. de Broglie to give a satisfactory answer to three proposals which he was commissioned to make to him on the part of the government.—*Messenger*.

The Constitution does not consider the step taken by Mr. Barton as indicative of an approaching rupture. It observes that the consul for the United States is to remain at Paris to keep up, as heretofore, the Commercial relations with France. It seems, in fact, that little or no uneasiness prevails in any part of France about a risk of war with the United States, and this probably is because there exists a strong impression that no means will be left untried to avoid a rupture, and that some mode of adjustment will be devised which may prove equally satisfactory to both sides.

The fact of Mr. Barton, the U. S. Charge d'Affairs at Paris, having demanded his passport of the French government is mentioned in all the papers save the ministerial organ.

The *Temps* states that Mr. Barton made his application, in a peremptory style, on Friday, alleging the non-execution of treaties on the part of France. The passports were delivered on Saturday, and the Charge d'Affairs was to quit Paris on Monday.—The *Temps*, nevertheless, expresses its confidence that matters will end in an amicable adjustment.

From the *London Mercury* of Nov. 11.

We have quoted from *Galigiani* an account of the naval preparations at Toulon, which are there ascribed wholly to the necessity for being prepared for the utmost resistance at Algiers; but some other of the Paris papers connect these preparations with the state of the American question, and indicate that the French fleet is preparing to meet the Americans. The *Messager* even hints that a project is entertained of occupying the Balearic Islands, in order to deprive the squadrons of the United States of all refuge in the Mediterranean. This is one of the moonshining projects ascribed to the French Ministry by its opponents, in the hope of exciting the jealousy and ill will of England. The Balearic Islands belong to Spain, and France would no more think of occupying them than of occupying Cadiz.

Extract of a letter of Nov. 4t. from *Toulon*.—Our maritime arsenal is in a high bustle. Several ships are being repaired with activity, and the Galley, which has already received a part of her guns, will shortly put to sea. No more is said of dismantling the Nestor and the Triton, which remain in the harbour. The 5th & 6th companies of the 1st regiment of Engineers are still in town. We have just received a half battery of artillery, and two companies of African Chasseurs are expected. All this leads one to suppose that the Government is aiming to have in readiness vessels and troops to reinforce, in case need, the expeditionary army of Africa, for we must not dissemble the fact, that although the Marshall Chausel has spies among the tribes of Algiers, yet it is impossible for him to have any certain data relative to the number of the enemy he is called upon to combat; nor are we sure the Emir of Maccara has not divided his partisans into different corps, in order to compel us to disperse our forces. P. S. I learn this instant that the Triton and some other ships have received orders to prepare for their departure, and will, it is said, sail to-morrow morning. Their destination is not exactly known, but it is said to be Port Vendres, from which place they will convey troops to Africa."

From the *National Intelligencer*.

GENTLEMEN:—

As you are no doubt desirous of giving every fact having any connexion with the recent disastrous fire in New York, I herewith enclose you a list of the Fire Insurance Companies, in that city, with the amount of their Capitals, I have seen letters from New York which states that most of these companies will be ruined. One letter says that they will not be able to pay more than from 10 to 20 per cent. Another remarks, "they will not be able to pay on an average fifty per cent."

FIRE INSURANCE COMPANIES IN NEW YORK.

NAMES.	CAPITAL.
Globe	\$1,000,000
Mutual	500,000
Washington	500,000
Eagle	500,000
Merchants	500,000
Fulton	500,000
Farmers' Fire and Loan	500,000
United States	500,000
Aetna	400,000
North River	350,000
Equitable	300,000
New York Contributionship	300,000
Firemen's	300,000
Howard	300,000
City	300,000
New York Bowery	300,000
Guardian	250,000
East River	250,000
Greenwich	250,000
Franklin	250,000
Manhattan	250,000
Phoenix	250,000
Jefferson	250,000
Traders	250,000
American	200,000
New York	200,000

Total \$9,450,000

Of the above institutions I learn that the Bowery, United States, North River, and City have escaped loss, I am too much affected by this awful dispensation to make any remarks.

Yours respectfully.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.

Extensive Destruction. The editor of the *Tallahassee Floridian*, who lately visited Key West, says, the shore is strewed with wrecks, and that the salvage will amount to near \$200,000. Many lives were lost—several vessels sunk, with every soul on board. Among them thirteen in the *Pedee*. Most of these disasters are imputed to the absence of lights on the coast, or the existence of such as serve only as dangerous decoys.

Florida Gazette.

FROM TEXAS.—A late arrival at New Orleans brings accounts from San Antonio (the seat of war) to the 27th November. On that day, it appears, a detachment of Gen. Cos' cavalry, out on a foraging excursion, were attacked on the 27th ult. by a party of Texans, and by them defeated, with the loss of thirty-five horses, and suffering in killed and wounded, to the number of fifty men. The loss of the Texans—three men slightly wounded. The adverse parties are said to have been about equal in numbers. General Austin had been elected Commissioner, together with Messrs. Archer and Wharton, to the United States, with plenary power to negotiate loans, &c. Edward Burlison has been elected by the army to fill the place vacated by Gen. Austin, and is therefore at the head of the Volunteer Army of Texas. Gen. Houston has been appointed by the General Council of the Provisional Government of Texas, to the command of the Regular Army to be raised.

Among the many interesting incidents that occurred during the great fire, says the New York Mercantile Advertiser the following should be recorded:—A wealthy merchant who occupied a store in Front street, seeing the danger to which his property was exposed, made many fruitless attempts to hire cartmen to remove his goods—but they were all engaged.—At last he met a cart, and said to the owner "I will give you five hundred dollars for your horse and cart"!—Sir, it is yours." With this means the merchant removed the principal part of his goods, amounting to upwards of \$80,000, which half an hour later, would have been consumed by the flames.

IMPROVED PADLOCK. A padlock of altogether novel construction was shown to us the other day at the Greenfield Bank. The body of the lock is straight, and consists of an iron or steel cylindrical box, six or eight inches in length. On this there is a double row of revolving brass bands, ten in all. Each band of the outer row has the letters of the alphabet and a star, and on the inside a corresponding number of grooves of the outer row. Two plates are affixed to the bar, to one of which the staple or tongue of the lock is fastened; the other has an indentation for the reception of the tongue when locked, and is screwed off when the lock is to be set to any new word.

Well, now for the philosophy of the matter. When you wish to lock this padlock, you screw off the plate, and draw off the outer row of bands. Then select whatever combination of letters, not over five, you may please, and slide on the bands again, in the grooves directly under the letters selected, being careful to have the same range. When the plate is screwed on and the bands turned out of their range, the lock is fast, and cannot be opened unless the letters by which it is set are again brought into a range at a particular point, when, if pulled upon, it unlocks. Thus no one can open it unless he knows the name of the letters by which it was set. It is true, he may chance to pull upon the right ones, but the chance is rather a desperate one, having some ten or twelve millions of chances opposed to it, as computed. Without this is a very curious and useful invention. It sets the pick lock at defiance. The invention is French, we understand.—*Greenfield (Mass.) Gazette*.

VETO ON MUSIC AND DANCING IN ENGLAND.—One of the most savage and heartless acts of the House of Lords, was, to use the exulting and elegant language of the *Times*, "the kicking out" of the music and dancing bill—where by his Majesty's liege subjects are debarred from these wholesome and innocent recreations in any public house, under a penalty of \$100, unless licensed by the Quarter Sessions. The nobility and gentry may turn night into day, and indulge *ad libitum* at almsack's and elsewhere in the too often indelicate mazes of the waltz and mazourka; but the poor people shall not while away the evening at an inn in the less objectionable exercise of the merry hornepipe, the country dance, or reel. Because forsooth, in the impudent denunciation of the *autocrat* of the *Times*, it may bring together into a scene of promiscuous debauchery the 20,000 thieves and 50,000 prostitutes, which London contains.—The savoyard may grind his hand organ and hurdy gurdy in the street, and the ballad-singer squall out his monotonous ditty, but there the taste for music among the multitude must cease. For their poverty shuts them out from the opera and the quadrille. How much better would it be for the morals of Old England if they could kick or sing off some of the bile of their climate and temperament by uniting joyously as the gay and happy French do, in the merry *cotillion*, under the broad spreading elms upon the village green, or in the beautiful public gardens which adorn all their cities. Suppose there were fewer of those sinks of pollution—the gin shops of London, and more such places as the *Boulevards*, and *Champs Elysees* and *Tivoli* at Paris—more buffoons, and harlequins and dancing masters, and fewer drunkards and gluttons, would it injure the morals or weaken the national character of England? Would there not, in fact, be fewer murders and suicides—more domestic happiness and peace?—We think so.

Er. Star.

Infamous Affair.—We copy the following murder committed on an unarmed prisoner in jail, from the *Advocate of Liberty*, Mississippi:

"On Tuesday last, a man by the name of Krenshaw, who had broken out of jail in Natchez and who was strongly suspected of one being one of that horrid clan, denominated *Murrelites*, was arrested at Fort Adams, and there by a justice of the peace, was ordered to be committed to the jail in Woodville; before the commitment had been executed, Krenshaw, it seems, was wrested from the officer into whose custody he had been committed, and by a number of citizens conveyed to the suburbs of the village, where the prisoner would soon have fallen a victim to our modern mode of punishing *Murrelites*; but for the intervention of the Circuit Court then in session, Krenshaw was then by the Court ordered under a guard to the Woodville jail. Having been informed that Krenshaw had visited Woodville for the express purpose of taking the life of Dr. Webb, of that county, who was an important witness on the part of the State against Hunter, (a brother supposed *Murrelite*) the Doctor on Wednesday, found access to the jail, and shot Krenshaw through his body, the ball entering the left breast, and making its lodgement in the region of the back bone. The last accounts states that Krenshaw was still alive, but his recovery was thought doubtful."

Foreign Capital. The effects of exciting a vulgar prejudice against foreign capital, are now most unfortunately brought home to our own city. Some twenty years since, the London *Phenix* Company was in the habit of insuring largely, against fire, upon property in this city. Its rates were low; its capital very large; and its liberality in adjusting losses great. Some of our citizens, and particularly the then directors of the *Globe*, availed themselves of this feeling against foreign capital, to obtain the passage of the law to direct this company from the *Globe*. The law was effective—the agent of the company left the country, and the losses which that company could easily have born, are now to be sustained by the windows and orphans of our own city.

N. Y. Star.

On Friday last, a melancholy accident occurred at Frankfort. The middle arch of the bridge over the Kentucky fell into the river, carrying with it two wagons with their drivers and teams and several foot passengers. It is supposed, that several lives were lost. One colored man is known to have been killed.—*Louisville Journal*.

## THE SENATE.

A Washington letter writer says,—  
"The present state of parties in the Senate may be safely estimated as follows:

Whigs,	24</td
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