

XLIV CONGRESS.

REGULAR SESSION.

SENATE.

MORRILL'S FINANCIAL BILL — GRASSHOPPER BILLS — VARIOUS MINOR MATTERS PRESENTED.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5.

After prayer by the Rev. James Cross of Illinois, and the reading of the journal of Dec. 2, the chair laid before the Senate a communication from the secretary of war, transmitting the report of the chief of engineers, regarding the amounts appropriated for the improvement of the month of the Mississippi River, Fort Jackson and Fort St. Philip. Ordered printed and to lie on the table; also a communication from the secretary of war renewing the recommendation that the military reservations at Camp Crittenden and Camp Grant, Arizona territory, be transferred to the interior department for disposal under the public lands laws. Ordered printed and to lie on the table.

Mr. Conkling of N. Y., presented a petition of the citizens of New York City, asking for the passage of an amendment to the constitution of the United States prohibiting appropriations for the payment of the national debt. The petition was presented and referred. The speaker then called upon the committee for reports, but no committee was ready.

On the motion of Mr. Morrison, of Ill., the House voted the amounts of the whole of the state of the union, with Mr. Wheeler, of N. Y., in the chair, and the usual resolutions distributing the president's message to the appropriate committees were offered by Mr. Morrison and adopted.

The committee rose and reported the resolutions to the House, when Mr. Kasson, of Iowa, called attention to the fact that among the amounts of the national debt, and means were those of the redemption of United States notes, the partial redemption of the legal tender act, and the gradual reduction of the legal tender notes. The committee voted to accept the resolutions as they were offered.

Mr. Garrison of N. Y., presented a petition of the citizens of New York City, asking for the passage of an amendment to the constitution of the United States prohibiting appropriations for the payment of the national debt. The petition was presented and referred. The speaker then called upon the committee for reports, but no committee was ready.

Mr. Merrill, of Vt., introduced a bill to further provide for the redemption of the United States legal tender notes, and to make the same a law.

Mr. Merrill said that having introduced the bill on his own responsibility, he presumed no senator here desired to repeat the same, as it was a bill to provide a specific sum.

His purpose in introducing this bill was to make the execution of the law easier. He had no bill but this, as he gave up his bill on the expiration of the meeting hour to-morrow.

The following is the full text of the bill:

It enacted, etc., that to further enable the secretary of the treasury to provide for the redemption of the legal tender notes of the United States in accordance with the act of congress of July 17, 1861, for the funding of the national debt with like quantities and privileges of exemption to the extent necessary to carry into effect the act of congress so approved, and to provide for the payment of the same in the national banks of the United States, bearing interest at a rate not exceeding four and one-half per cent per annum, described in the act of congress so approved July 17, 1861, as the same is in force, and for other purposes.

Sec. 1. That all contracts entered into or made for the first day of January, 1874, shall be payable in accordance with the legal-tender standard of gold and silver, unless otherwise provided by the time of the contract.

Sec. 2. That all contracts for banking associations shall be and are hereby requested to hold in coin, as a part of their lawful money, notes issued after the 1st day of January, 1871, one fourth part of the 1st day of January, 1874, one half part after the 1st day of October, 1873, three-fourths.

Mr. Boutwell, of Mass., presented a petition of H. A. Brown, late special agent of the United States treasury, asking a hearing in regard to the

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by a systematic undervaluation of imported merchandise, crooked invoices and other devices, the extent thereof and facilities provided by the loose conduct of the custom business. Referred.

Mr. Howe, of Wis., presented a memorial of the citizens of Wisconsin for the completion of the Fox river improvement. Referred to the committee on commerce.

The chair laid before the Senate a communication from the secretary of war stating that the sum of \$100,000 of the last session of congress for the payment of the judgments of the Alabama commission as soon as possible after the 22d of January next; also for an equestrian statue in Washington of Zachary Taylor, twelfth president of the United States; by Mr. O'Brien, of Md., a resolution directing the committee on naval affairs to invest a sum in the purchase of the masts, spars and rigging to insure the expedition of abolishing such corporations; transferring it to the army. Adopted; also a resolution calling on the secretary of the navy for information as to whether any of the officers of the navy or marine corps over the age of 62 years are still retained on the active list, and, if so, why they have not been retired. Adopted; by Mr. Goode, of Va., calling on the secretary of the navy to lay in a store of 100,000 lbs. of gunpowder, not authorized by the 1st of Feb. 1863, one million lbs. of gunpowder, and 100,000 lbs. of gunpowder authorized by the 1st of Feb. 1863.

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