

WEEKLY COURIER.

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CURRENT NEWS.

Congress.

In the Senate, on the 18th, the bill to exclude Missouri from the provisions of the Mining act was passed. In the House, Mr. Faulkner offered a resolution instructing the Commissioner of Foreign Affairs to inquire into the powers conferred upon A. B. Steinberger as Special Agent or Commissioner to the Samoan or Navajo Islands. Adopted. The House then went into Committee of the Whole, Mr. Cox in the chair, on the Legislative Appropriation bill, and a number of speeches were made upon various questions.

In the Senate, on the 16th, Messrs. Cameron, West, Logan, and Edmunds took occasion to deny the truth of certain charges made by newspaper correspondents reflecting upon their official conduct. There was some general debate on various measures, but no bills were passed. The House passed several local bills, among them one providing for the holding of terms of District and Circuit Courts in Kansas City, Mo.

The Senate was not in session on the 17th. The House transacted but little business of importance. The Banks Centennial Committee was authorized to sit during the recess of Congress.

The Senate was not in session on the 18th. No business of interest was transacted in the House.

In the Senate, on the 29th, Mr. Withers, from the Committee on Appropriations, reported the House bill to supply the deficiency for feeding the Sioux Indians. He moved to strike out of the bill the words \$100,000, and insert \$150,000. The amendment was agreed to and the bill passed. The bill to provide for counting the votes for President, etc., was then taken up and debated at some length. In the House, Mr. Atkins moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill repealing all provisions of the act of the 14th of January, 1875, for the resumption of specie payments, that authorized the Secretary of the Treasury to redeem and cancel United States notes, and to call United States bonds for the accomplishment of that purpose. This motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill was rejected 189 to 108, nays, 108—not two thirds in the affirmative.

In the Senate, on the 21st, the bill to provide for counting the votes for President, etc., was again under consideration and again went over. In the House, Mr. Jones (Ky.), from the Committee on Railroads and Canals, reported a bill to authorize the Washington, Cincinnati and St. Louis Railroad to construct a narrow-gauge railroad from tide-water to St. Louis and Chicago. Recommitted. Mr. Caulfield, from the Judiciary Committee, reported a bill making it a misdemeanor for any person in the employment of the United States to solicit or contribute funds for election purposes, or to canvass in any election in any state, county or district in the United States. A number of amendments were offered to the bill, which finally went over.

WASHINGTON.

The Democratic Financial Caucus, by a vote of 69 to 46, has agreed to report the Payne bill, the principal features of which are as follows: It provides for the gradual resumption of specie payment by making it the duty of the Secretary of the Treasury annually to retain, in coin, an amount equal to 3 per cent. of the legal-tender notes outstanding, to constitute a resumption fund, and also requiring national banks to set aside an amount of coin equal to 3 per cent. of their circulating notes. The bill, in addition, provides for the repeal of so much of the Specie Resumption act of January 14, 1875, as designates the 1st of January, 1875, as the date of resumption.

Charges having been made affecting the literary reputation of Mr. Richard H. Dana, Jr., to the effect that a considerable portion of his published writings had been plagiarized, the action of the Senate upon his nomination as Minister to England has been suspended until Mr. Dana has had an opportunity to meet his accusers—chief of whom is Gen. Butler—and repel their accusations. It is generally understood in Washington that his nomination will not be confirmed.

Mr. Wm. A. Danforth, of Chicago, testified before the House Committee on Post-offices, etc., on the 17th. He said he was an intimate personal friend of Mr. Sanderson, of the firm of Barlow, Sanderson & Co., Western mail contractors, and the latter had admitted to him that the firm paid large sums to various officials in Post-master-General Creswell's Department—in one case not less than \$5,000 per quarter to one person, and to another a diamond pin, etc. No names were mentioned. The witness said he had seen one of the books of the firm, which showed that they set aside a considerable proportion of their receipts from mail contracts to be devoted to such payments. The witness said that subsequently Mr. Sanderson informed him that they had burned their books, and suggested that he had better not remember what had been told him on this subject.

The Republican Senatorial Caucus has agreed that the sweeping reductions in the customary annual appropriations proposed by the House committees will seriously impair the civil service, and that the Senate shall therefore insist upon passing upon each item separately, and concurring only in those reductions which seem compatible with the efficiency of the service.

Mr. C. B. Peck, of the firm of Durfee & Peck, who were post-traders at Forts Sully, Rice, Stevenson, and Buford, testified before the Clymer Committee on the 17th. All of these tradeships were taken from this firm, that of Fort Sully being given to Mr. Athey, a former clerk for W. C. Babcock, Surveyor-General of Kansas, and a brother of General Babcock, late the President's Private Secretary. Athey had no means to purchase supplies, and the firm entered into an arrangement with him through W. C. Babcock, by which they agreed to employ Athey at a salary of \$1,600 per year, until he could raise the means to purchase the stock and supplies owned by the firm; and in consideration of Babcock's service in procuring the contract they paid him the sum of \$2,250 in three quarterly installments. This post was considered worth \$10,000 a year. The witness further testified his belief that various other tradeships were taken from his firm through the influence of Orville Grant, and given to other parties.

Immunity from arrest having been pro-

vided by the Government to Caleb F. Marsh and his wife, who fled to Canada on account of being implicated in the Fort Sill frauds, it was authoritatively stated on the 19th that Marsh would return to Washington in a few days and testify before the Grand Jury in Belknap's case.

It is officially announced by the Post-office Department, that on and after April 3 next the system of international money-order exchanges now in force between the United States and Canada will be extended to the province of Newfoundland.

It is stated that the Indian Appropriation bill, as prepared for the consideration of the Committee on Appropriations, is based upon the assumption that the proposed transfer of the Indian Bureau from the Interior to the War Department will be enacted. It therefore makes no provision for Indian Agents, Superintendents, Inspectors, etc., nor for any miscellaneous objects, except such as are required by express stipulations of treaties. The amounts which, in the judgment of the committee, are needed for subsistence and clothing, and for transportation for Indian service, will hereafter be provided for in the Army Appropriation bill, to be expended by the Commissary and Quartermaster's Departments. Under these heads, Mr. Randall believes that at least one and a half million dollars can be saved annually. The plan contemplates making a great saving in transportation by removing all the principal agencies to the vicinity of military posts.

The President has nominated Joel D. Harvey for Collector of Internal Revenue for the First District of Illinois; Wm. H. Doell, of Minnesota, for Assistant Commissioner of Patents; Philip Arnabalt, of Missouri, for Pension Agent at St. Joseph; and John M. Coghlan, of California, for Chief-Justice of Utah Territory.

J. S. Evans, formerly post-trader at Fort Sill, testified before the Clymer Committee on the 21st. Witness gave a detailed account of his transactions with Marsh, accompanied by a statement of his payments to him. Witness was first introduced to Gen. Belknap by Gen. Rice, of Iowa, and paid him \$1,000 for the introduction. Secretary Belknap told witness he had promised Marsh a place, and Marsh had selected Fort Sill. (Evans at this time had the position of post-trader at that post.) Evans saw Marsh, who appeared to understand all about the matter. He went to New York with Marsh, where a written contract was signed. He said he told his friends of his agreement with Marsh, and showed Gen. Grinnell, commanding officer at the post, the contract on his return to Fort Sill. The facts, he said, were well known there, and it was regarded there as a great outrage and the cause of extortionate prices.

General Babcock has authorized the following statement regarding the now famous letter from the Attorney-General to District-Attorney Dyer, the publication of which was the occasion of such general comment. He says: "I found a copy of a letter lying open upon my desk at the Executive Mansion. I do not know how or by whom it came there. It was without any envelope or direction to any body. It was not marked official or confidential; there was nothing to show it was intended for the President, and he informed me that he never saw it. The copy appears to have been made in the Attorney-General's office. Finding this copy, open and without direction, upon my desk, I presumed it was put there for my inspection and use, and, accordingly, I placed it in the hands of my counsel for such action as they might think proper in regard to it."

The Foreign Relations Committee has reported back to the Senate the nomination of Richard H. Dana, Jr., to be Minister to England, with the recommendation that it be not confirmed. It was placed on the calendar with the adverse report, for future consideration. Mr. Dana had previously written a letter to Senator Boutwell, in which he refused to appear before the committee in his own vindication.

A correspondent of the New York *Herald* having furnished that paper with some alleged facts concerning "crooked" mule claims against the Government, by some Kentucky parties, in which Secretary Bris- tow appeared as counsel before the Court of Claims and received for his services a large contingent fee, Mr. Bris- tow voluntarily appeared before the Committee on Expenditures in the War Department, on the 20th, and explained his connection with the case, which he said he believed to be a just and honest claim, and in the prosecution of which his professional services were employed at a time when he was in no manner officially connected with the Government.

The recent snow storm appears to have extended to nearly all parts of the country—North, South, East and West—as well as throughout a large portion of Europe.

EAST.

The wife of ex-Senator Carl Schurz died in New York, on the 15th, of puerperal fever.

Gen. Sargo, Chief Commissioner of Japan, with suite, arrived at San Francisco on the 15th, bringing a large quantity of exhibits for the Centennial.

A State Greenback Convention was held at Syracuse, N. Y., on the 15th.

St. Patrick's Day was celebrated this year with the usual processions, banquets, etc., in most of the large towns and cities throughout the country. In Boston the day was additionally celebrated as being the 100th anniversary of the evacuation of that city by the British troops.

Gen. Schenck, late United States Minister to Great Britain, arrived in New York on the 15th.

Josephine Sooy, Jr., the defaulting State Treasurer of New Jersey, has been sentenced to confinement in the State Prison for three years, and until the costs of prosecution are paid. He is over 60 years old, and has a family highly respected.

The Elmville Woolen Mills, at Cranston, R. I., were burned on the 18th. Loss nearly \$200,000, mostly insured.

As near as can be ascertained by an un-

official count, Cheney, the Republican candidate for Governor of New Hampshire, has a majority of 3,347. The Republicans have also carried the Legislature by a majority of 20 on joint ballot.

WEST AND SOUTH.

The Governor of Kansas, in accordance with the request of the Legislature, has appointed Saturday, April 1, as Arbor day for the entire State.

The Colorado Constitutional Convention adjourned sine die on the 15th. The proposed State Constitution will be submitted to the people July 1.

The United States Grand Jury at Chicago, on the 16th, returned indictments against Philip Wadsworth, ex-Collector of Internal Revenue, D. W. Munn, ex-Supervisor of Internal Revenue, and E. T. Bridges, ex-Revenue Agent, for complicity in whisky frauds. Bridges has fled to Canada.

Hesing, Rehm, and a number of other indicted members of the Chicago Whisky Ring, have pleaded guilty to one or more counts in the indictments found against them.

The Council of Administration at Fort Sill has recommended the reappointment of Capt. John S. Evans, who was recently removed on the order of President Grant, on account of complicity in the Belknap-Marsch frauds.

Wash Rockwell, a well known sporting man, was shot and killed in New Orleans on the 17th by R. Desposito.

Advice to the Indian Office dated Fort Laramie, 18th, represent Red Cloud's band of Sioux quietly on their reservation, and taking no part in the warlike demonstration of Sitting Bull.

A severe snow storm, accompanied by an unusually low temperature, prevailed throughout the West and Northwest on the 18th and 19th. At Sioux City on the afternoon of the 19th the mercury fell from fifty degrees above to four degrees below zero. Hundreds of Black Hills adventurers were caught between Yankton and the Hills, and it is feared that great suffering will ensue, as many are beyond the reach of fuel and feed for their stock, and unable to move in any direction on account of the deep snow.

The Ohio Democratic State Convention will be held at Cincinnati on May 17.

At Jackson, Miss., on the 18th, J. D. Bell, proprietor of the *People's Defense*, had an altercation with a printer named Augustus Carey, regarding a settlement of accounts, when Bell drew a pistol and shot Carey dead. Bell is under arrest.

Fourteen tons of silver coin, amounting to half a million dollars, was shipped from San Francisco to the Treasury Department during the week ending March 25.

A fire at Charleston, S. C., on the morning of the 21st, destroyed a large number of small wooden tenements, and hundreds of people were rendered homeless and penniless.

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs has received a dispatch from John P. Clum, United States Indian Agent at San Carlos, Arizona Territory, in which he says that Guide Beauford made a scout into Tonto Basin with 15 Indian police, and on March 6 killed 16 and captured 21 renegades.

FOREIGN.

Two deplorable marine casualties were reported by cable on the 16th. The ship Great Britain, from Liverpool, became water-logged on the 3d of March and was abandoned at sea. The captain and 13 men took to a boat and suffered terribly from hunger. Three of the men died, and the survivors were forced to eat portions of the remains of their comrades to keep from starving.

On the 11th of March they were rescued in the last stages of emaciation. The American ship Ennemis, from Port Royal, S. C., was capsized on the 12th of March, and Capt. Beard and 13 of the crew were drowned. The second mate and seven of the crew succeeded in reaching Queenstown in safety.

Queen Victoria has made arrangements to spend a week each at Baden-Baden and Coburg. She will travel incognito, and has particularly requested that no official reception be tendered her anywhere on her journey.

A frightful railway accident occurred in Germany on the 17th, caused by the giving way, on account of high water, of an arch of the railway bridge over the river Ill, near Lutterbach. A passenger train from Mulhouse, near Strasburg, which was crossing at the time, was precipitated into the river. The carriages fell on top of one another, and were dashed to pieces. Owing to the violence of the storm none of the passengers could be saved, and some 40 or 50 persons were either crushed to death or drowned.

Vesuvius was reported to be in eruption on the 17th, and the lava flowing towards Pompeii.

Railway communication in Scotland was almost entirely blockaded by the snow on the 18th and 19th.

Ferdinand Feltrigh, the German poet, died on the 18th, aged 60.

The steamer Isabel, from Rochelle for Bristol, was wrecked off the English coast near Land's End, on the night of the 18th, and her entire crew, 30 in number, was lost.

A London dispatch of the 21st says that on the preceding day the unprecedented spectacle was witnessed of 400 wind-bound vessels sailing from the Mersey. 193 of these were bound for foreign ports. The vessels formed a procession sometimes ten abreast, which occupied two hours in passing.

King Alfonso made his royal entry into Madrid on the 20th, at the head of his victorious troops.

—A young man from the country

blew out the gas at a Kalamazoo hotel the other night when he went to bed. About midnight a strong smell of gas from his room attracted the attention of some of the boarders, who forced open the door and found him in the last gasps of life. He was taken out in the open air, and by hard work was brought to consciousness.

The Democratic Financial Bill.

Following is the text of the Payne bill, which was adopted by the Democratic Caucus and will be supported in the House as a party measure:

A BILL to provide for the gradual resumption of specie-payments.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Treasury during each and every year, from and after July 1, 1876, and until the legal-tender notes of the United States shall be appreciated to par value with gold and shall be convertible into coin, to cause to be set aside and retained in coin an amount equal to 3 per cent. of such legal-tender notes outstanding; and from the date of such convertibility as aforesaid, the amount of coin set aside and retained as aforesaid shall be held as a resumption fund in respect to said legal-tender notes, and shall at no time be less than 30 per cent. of such outstanding legal-tender notes; provided, however, that the coin so set aside and retained as above provided shall be counted as a part of the sinking fund for the purchase or payment of the public debt, as required by Sec. 3,634 of the Revised Statutes.

SEC. 2. That it shall be the duty of each National Bank Association during each and every year from and after July 1, 1876, until the full and complete resumption of the payment in specie of its circulating notes, to set aside and retain from the coin receivable as interest on the bonds deposited with the Treasurer of the United States as security for its circulation an amount equal to 3 per centum of its circulating notes, issued to such association and not surrendered, and from the date of its resumption of specie payments as aforesaid the amount of coin to be held and maintained as a resumption fund shall at no time be less than 30 per centum of its outstanding circulation; provided, however, that the coin by this section directed to be set aside and retained shall be counted as a part of the lawful money reserve which said associations are by existing laws required to maintain.

SEC. 3. That so much of Sec. 3 of an act entitled "An act to provide for the resumption of specie payments," approved Jan. 14, 1875, as requires the Secretary of the Treasury to redeem legal-tender notes to the amount of 80 per centum of the sum of National Bank notes issued to any banking association, increasing its capital or circulation, or to any association newly organized or provided in said section, and also as much of said Sec. 3 as relates to or provides for the redemption in coin of the United States legal-tender notes on and after Jan. 1, 1875, and all other provisions of law inconsistent with this act, are hereby repealed.

Keeping Up With the Fashions.

Beneath the calm surface of this Lenten season there are great activities at work. One of the chief of these is the preparation of the spring fashions. They have been announced in general terms, but to get them out in grand display is a very different thing. The modistes are making a great effort to collect the last winter bills, which is a tedious task, and heavy losses will be incurred. They make large profits, and therefore have a margin for losses, but this year the margin will be exceeded. The pressure brought to bear upon these fashion-mongers to grant credit is beyond all calculation. Ladies must be kept up to style, for "one might as well be out of the world as out of the fashion," and as money is scarce they are obliged to beg for credit. What expedients are resorted to to obtain it I have not space to record. When the spring fashions appear the struggle will be renewed. Few have an idea of the extent which the credit system has reached in the fashionable world. There are ladies in this city who run bills at Stewart's from \$10,000 to \$20,000 during a year.

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The question of the origin of the great lakes is one that requires more observation and study than have yet been given to it, says J. S. Newberry in the Michigan Geological Survey, before we can be said to have solved all the problems it involves. There are, however, certain facts connected with the structure of the lake basins, and some deduction from these facts, which may be regarded as steps already taken toward the full understanding of the subject. These facts and deductions are, briefly, as follows:

1. Lake Superior lies in a synclinal trough, and its mode of formation, therefore, hardly admits of question, though its sides are deeply scored with ice-marks, and its form and area may have been somewhat modified by this agent.

2. Lake Huron, Lake Michigan, Lake Erie and Lake Ontario are excavated basins, wrought out of once continuous sheets of sedimentary strata by a mechanical agent, and that ice or water, or both. That they have been filled with ice, and this ice formed great moving glaciers, we may consider proved. The west end of Lake Erie may be said to be carved out of the coniferous limestone by ice action, as its bottom, and sides, and islands—horizontal, vertical, and even overhanging surfaces—are all furrowed by glacial grooves, which are parallel with the major axis of the lake.

All our great lakes are probably very ancient, as, since the close of the Devonian period, the area they occupy has never been submerged beneath the ocean, and their formation may have begun during the coal epoch.