

NINETEENTH CONGRESS.

FIRST SESSION.

MONDAY, DEC. 19.—The greater part of the business in the Senate consisted of the introduction and reference of petitions to their proper committees. A resolution was offered by Mr. Dickerson, declaring that no person, who has been twice elected to the office of President shall again be eligible, and a resolution offered by Mr. Cobb, proposes to prohibit members of the Senate or House of Representatives from accepting any office of honor, trust or profit, under the government of the United States, during the period for which they were elected. A resolution was submitted by Mr. Eaton, inquiring into the authority of the Territory of Arkansas for imposing taxes on soldiers' grants.

In the House of Representatives, the resolution of Mr. Hamilton, on the subject of the proposed Commission to the Congress of Panama, was laid on the table, on his own motion, as he had understood that information on the subject was about to be presented to the House. Mr. Reed introduced a resolution relative to a communication between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, over the Isthmus of Panama. Mr. Webster laid on the table a resolution on the subject of a Canal across the Peninsula of Florida, which he represented to be a subject of deep importance. The claims of the Ex-President, (Mr. Monroe,) were brought before the House by Mr. Ingham, and referred to the committee on claims. Mr. Thompson offered a resolution, referring it to the committee on the District of Columbia, to inquire into the expediency of giving a territorial government to the District, which was agreed to.

TUESDAY, DEC. 20.—In the Senate, Mr. Van Buren introduced, and accompanied with some appropriate remarks, a resolution, declaring that Congress does not possess the power to construct roads and canals, and proposing that the power be given, under such restrictions as to secure to each State the benefits resulting from appropriations for that purpose. A resolution was offered by Mr. Robins, for referring that part of the President's Message relative to a National University, to a select committee. The resolution offered yesterday by Mr. Cobb, relative to the prohibition of members of Congress from accepting any office under the government, was referred, without debate, to the committee on the subject of the amendments to the Constitution.

In the House of Representatives, a resolution was introduced by Mr. Henry, on the subject of a Military Academy on the western waters. Another resolution was offered, by Mr. Cook, on the subject of the sale of the lead mines in Illinois. The resolutions offered on the day preceding, by Mr. Forsyth, requesting information as to the correspondence between the United States and Great Britain, in relation to the Slave Trade; by Mr. Trimble, calling for the message of Mr. Jefferson, recommending an expedition across the continent; & by Mr. White, relative to the proposed fortifications in Pensacola bay, were all agreed to. The discussion of Mr. Blair's joint resolution on the subject of a National Armory on the western waters was resumed, and terminated in the reference of the resolution with its amendments, to the committee on Military Affairs. The engrossed bill, entitled "An act making certain alterations in the mode of paying the enlisted soldiers of the United States, in order to prevent the crime of desertion," was read a third time, and afterwards laid on the table.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 21.—The Senate did not sit to day.

In the House of Representatives, a petition was presented by Mrs. Decatur, on behalf of herself and the officers and crew who had been associated in the destruction of the frigate Philadelphia, at Tripoli, praying recompense. A resolution was adopted, appointing a committee to suggest some mode of making the Representatives' Hall better calculated for the purposes of a deliberative assembly. A resolution was introduced by Mr. Campbell, calling for information on the subject of desertions from the army; and the bill on that subject was re-committed to the Military committee, with a view to its modification. A resolution was laid on the table by Mr. Dwight, inquiring if any losses in the collection of the custom duties had recently taken place, and if so, to obtain the particulars. Mr. Owen offered a resolution calling for information relative to the treaty with the Creek Indians negotiated by Generals Jackson and Pickens, at Fort Jackson. The bill making appropriations for Fortifications for the next year was reported and read twice: It asks for the service of the year \$795,000. The bill relative to the sale of school lands in Ohio caused some discussion, but was finally ordered to a third reading; as also was the bill making appropriations for the payment of revolutionary pensioners.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY AT WAR.

This is an interesting document, and was submitted on the 1st of last month. Mr. Barbour recommends retaining part of the soldiers' pay, to prevent desertion, which seems to be an extensive evil—says, that in his Department a single cent has not been lost—and gives a pleasing account of the Military Academy. The following concluding paragraphs are interesting:

"By reference to the report from the Engineer Department, it will be seen our system of fortification is progressing as successfully as could be expected. Some delay and embarrassment have resulted from the very limited number of officers belonging to the Engineer Corps, an increase of whose numbers is required by the increasing duties they have to perform. The law entitled an act to procure the necessary surveys, plans, and estimates, upon the subject of Roads and Canals, has received the attention its importance required. Three great projects have engaged the chief attention of the Corps of Civil Topographical Engineers: The proposed connection of the Eastern and Western waters by the Ohio and Chesapeake Canal; the practicability of uniting the waters of Lake Memphremagog with the Connecticut River, of improving the navigation of that river, and its tributary streams; and the national road from this place to New-Orleans. The reconnaissance of the first has been completed, and the Board of Engineers is preparing a full report on the subject. In causing a reconnaissance to be made upon the second object, I was led thereto as well by considerations of its national importance as the request of many of the States interested in the navigation of that river. Although the reconnaissance and examination have been completed, the report of the officer engaged in that service has not yet reached the Department, as the details, to accompany it have not been prepared.

"The location of the Road from this place to New Orleans has deservedly excited a very great interest, especially in those regions through which there was even the most remote probability of its being carried. Memorials have been presented in favour of a great variety of routes. Although they have been respectfully considered, it is believed that the principal routes may, with propriety, be reduced to three. One by the Capitals of the Southern States. The second, the direct line which approaches as near as practical the range of Mountains nearly parallel therewith. And the third, crossing the blue ridge at the most convenient pass, and pursuing the valley between the North and South Mountains, passing the neighborhood of Knoxville, and thence to its final destination. The two first routes have been explored—the third is now in a course of inspection; and hopes are entertained that during the present Session, a full report containing all the necessary information may be made to Congress.

"The execution of the law of the last session, entitled an act for the continuance of the Cumberland Road, was referred to this department. The superintendent being appointed during the extra session, steps were immediately taken to carry the law into effect. The site of the road not having been fixed upon, and great diversity of interests, producing a correspondent diversity of opinion, interposed some difficulty in fixing the most eligible route.—After yielding to the petition of a number of respectable citizens, so far as to cause an inspection of a new route, which resulted in an unfavorable report, the one formerly recommended was adopted. Contracts have been already made for about twenty-eight miles of the road, and which are in a course of execution. In directing the manner of its being made, the Mc Adams plan was adopted—recommended by its cheapness and superior quality.—The superiority of this mode over that formerly pursued in the construction of Turnpike Roads, is ascertained most satisfactorily, by twenty years experience in Great Britain. The evidence of which is found in the approbation of the Executive and Legislative branches of that government—both having liberally rewarded the inventor—and also from an experiment made in this country. The result, as far as we have proceeded in the execution of this measure, has exceeded our most sanguine expectations. By dividing the road into very small sections, so as to enlarge the sphere of competition, and to exclude speculations, the cost is reduced to \$4,300 per mile, presenting a most favorable comparison with the expense incurred, being 12,000 a mile in the construction of the road on this side of the Ohio. I refer to the reports of the Quarter Master General, and of the Engineer Department, for the measures which have been adopted in execution of the several acts of Congress directing the surveys and construction of

roads, as also sundry improvements in the navigation of the United States.

Various applications have been presented from different parts of the U. States, asking the aid of Topographical Engineers in inspecting and reporting upon projects of internal improvements, which it was impossible to comply with, from the very limited number of that corps; each of which has been engaged on service. It is submitted whether the corps itself should not be placed on a similar basis with that of the Engineer corps, and to be successively increased within a prescribed maximum, according to the discretion of the President, which would find security for its judicious exercise in the calls that might be made on the services of that corps, and the talents that time might successively offer for selection.

Document No. K is the report on Indian Affairs.

The act of Congress, approved May 4, 1824, authorising Treaties with the tribes on the Missouri, has been successfully executed by the Commissioners, Messrs. Atkinson and O'Fallon, who have made Treaties with the Poncars, Teton, Yankton, Yanktonies, Angallallas, Saines, and Hunkpapas tribes of the Sioux—the Chayennes, the Ricaras, the Mandans, Minetaree, and Crow nation of Indians.

Treaties have also been concluded by Gov. Clark with the Osages and Kansas—by which, one hundred millions of acres of land have been disencumbered of the Indian title, and also with Shawanees for exchange of lands in Missouri.

"Deadly feuds and hostilities having raged for years among various tribes, which threatened their extermination, and which proved fatal to some of our citizens, the Congress of the United States, animated by the most laudable wish to put an end to them, appropriated a sum of money for the purpose of meeting the expense of a treaty, and the Executive appointed Governors Clark and Cass as mediators among these tribes, who were so fortunate as to reconcile them to each other, and to establish peace, by adjusting their boundaries, and removing other causes of discord so as to justify a hope that it will not be again disturbed. The effect of our policy of furnishing the means of education to the Indian youths, is disclosed in the report, by which it will be seen that in this year 1,159 have profited by our liberality.

"The pacific relations between every tribe and the citizens of the United States have been preserved without the slightest violation, as far as this Department is informed. The situation of the Creeks claims, on account of its importance, a more particular notice; which will be the subject of a special report."

CUBA.—There is every reason to believe that Mexico and Colombia are preparing a very formidable expedition to dispossess Spain of the possession of the island of Cuba, which, we suppose, will be easily accomplished. But if the expedition shall be resisted, & the island become the theatre for military operations, we may make a fearful calculation of its result, from the excess of the colored population, always ready to take any advantage for their own liberation. The scenes that were acted in Hayti will be re-acted in Cuba, sooner or later—and the present contemplated expedition may only hasten events that must happen.—Niles.

THE BANDA ORIENTAL.—About 2,000 men, selected from the Brazilian troops in the Banda Oriental were completely beaten, on the 12th Oct. last, by the patriot forces commanded by Lavallejo, near Duragno—400 of the imperialists were left dead on the field of battle, 470 made prisoners, and more than 2,000 stand of arms, with 10 pieces of cannon, fell immediately into the hands of the victors; and the next day, it seems, that those who had escaped surrendered themselves—so the whole force was lost to his majesty of Brazil.

While we have the pleasure to notice this triumph of the patriots in arms, we regret to observe that superstition still wields her iron sceptre at Buenos Ayres. An Englishman, who had just arrived, unacquainted with the customs of the country, met with a procession of the hosts, which he did not treat with "due reverence," by dismounting from his horse—and the people pulled him off and so injured him as to cause his death. Pretty work this is in a free country!—and such things, it seems, often times happen. The priests and their mobs, ought to be prosecuted; and we hope, that if an American citizen shall be thus abused, that our spirited representative at Buenos Ayres will seriously take up the case, and ascertain whether the priests can compel persons to submit to the observance of ceremonies to which they may be in conscience opposed, by murdering them on the high way, if they refuse.

INDIANA LEGISLATURE.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 21.

The Speaker laid before the House the following report:

AUDITOR'S OFFICE,)

15th DECEMBER, 1825.)

To the Hon. the Speaker of the House of Representatives,

SIR—In compliance with a resolution of the House of Representatives of the 12th inst., relative to the amount of balances due from sundry counties to the 1st February last, I have the honor herewith to make the following report:

There is due from the county of Bartholomew for the year 1822, upon which judgment is obtained, \$89 34

From Clark for 1816, \$125 43

from do. do. 1817, 1,003 23

making in all the sum, 1,128 66

which is considered doubtful by insolvency of the collectors and securities.—

Clark for 1823, suit ordered and relieved by a special act of last session, amount, 1,065 00

Crawford for 1822, and judgment obtained, 247 47

Dearborn for 1818, suit ordered, 119 58

Dubois for 1823 and 1824, suit ordered, 145 59

Fayette for 1820, 120 22

do. 1822, 56 38

suit ordered, amount in all, 177 10

Fayette for 1823, suit ordered, 110 42

Floyd for 1821, 95 93

do. 1822, 384 14

making in all, 480 07

Floyd for 1823, 733 21

Upon all which suits have been commenced,

Henry for 1823, suit ordered, 82 20

Jackson for 1820, 33 19,

do. 1822, 224 93,

suit ordered, and a special act of the Legislature giving further time, 253 17

Jefferson for 1824, 20 51

Martin for 1822, 203 93

do. 1823, 338 33

suit ordered, amounting to, 542 26

Monroe for 1823, suit ordered, 157 69

Orange for 1822, suit ordered, 341 23

do. 1823, 326 13

Parke for 1822, 56 55

do. 1823, 133 40

suit ordered, 191 95

Perkins for 1822, 244 21

do. 1823, 273 95

suit ordered, 523 16

Rush for 1824, 61 00, to be transferred by an act of last session, to 1826 61 00

Scott for 1824, suit ordered, 244 18

Switzerland for 1823, suit ordered, 406 53

do. 1824, do. 1,063 73

Vigo for 1822, 37 37

do. 1823, 292 39

suit ordered, 330 21

Wayne for 1819, 103 39

do. 1819, 126 25

232 64

Making in all the sum of \$9,034 63

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, yours,
WILLIAM H. LILLY.

Which was read and referred to the committee of ways and means.

Mr. Beckes from the select committee to whom was referred that part of the Governor's message which relates to asylums for the poor, submitted the following report, to wit:

MR. SPEAKER.—The committee to whom was referred as much of the Governor's message as recommends the establishment of public asylums for the support of the poor, report—

That they have attentively examined the subject submitted by the House to their consideration. The committee are perfectly aware that to secure suitable provision for the poor, is a point in legislation, carefully attended to in every civilized and christian country. We see a pledge to this effect in the protecting principle upon which governments are based. But the laws for this, as for other purposes of social life, must be adapted to the situation and circumstances of the community for which they are intended. In countries overflowing with inhabitants, and where from a variety of causes, great inequalities as to riches and rank in society unfortunately prevail, and paupers consequently become exceedingly numerous, there it is that work-houses, hospitals, asylums, poor-houses, and many other public institutions of a similar character, have been considered proper and useful for the wretched victims of penury and affliction. The state of Indiana, however, is by no means a country of this description. On the contrary, it is just in the vigor of youth; its population is not at present, nor will it be