

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR.

This Document mainly consists of a very brief recapitulation of the principal operations of the department, with references to the documents accompanying it, and is therefore, principally useful in connection with those. When we receive all the Documents from the Department, we may give brief abstracts of the information they contain. At present, we can only give the following extracts from the report of the chief Engineer, a paper which exhibits the transactions of the engineers, in the construction of fortifications, the survey of roads, canals, &c.

Under the act of March 3d, 1825, to authorize the President to cause a road to be marked out from the western frontier of Missouri to the confines of New Mexico, the Commissioners who were appointed have performed the duties assigned them, and made their report.

A Civil surveyor has also been employed for the purpose of surveying the different routes for a continuation of the national road from Cumberland to this city, and is now engaged in the fulfilment of that object.

The preliminary and experimental surveys for the continuation of the national road west of Zanesville, and the location of the road, have been completed to the boundary line between the States of Indiana and Illinois, by the commissioner appointed for that purpose; but a particular and minute report thereof has not yet been received, but is expected shortly.

The continuation of the National Road from the Ohio river to Zanesville, has been prosecuted during the year under the most favorable circumstances, and the results already afforded by such portions of the road as have been finished a sufficient length of time to permit the work to acquire the requisite solidity, have been such as to remove the prejudices which have so long existed against the mode of construction on the McAdams principle. Of the whole distance between the Ohio and Zanesville, twenty eight and a half miles have received three coverings of stone, making a total thickness of nine inches, and as all the masonry necessary in this distance for bridges, culverts and drains, has been completed, this portion of the road may be considered as entirely finished, with the exception of those small items of work which are necessary on all newly constructed roads.

On a second portion of the road, embracing a distance of twenty three and a half miles, the travel was admitted on the first day of July last, and will be continued until the ensuing Spring, before the application of the cover of stone, in order to afford ample time for the settling of the numerous and deep fillings which it was found necessary to make. The interim will be employed in the collection of materials for the cover of the same.

On the 21st day of July last, the remaining distance of twenty one miles was put under contract at more favorable rates than had been previously obtained, and the whole of this line with the exception of about seven miles, is in an active state of progress.

As the report of the Superintendent of this road contains much valuable and interesting information on the subject of its construction, and the repair of the Cumberland Road, I beg leave to annex it to this report. It is marked C.

The act of March 2d, 1827, appropriating \$30,000 for the repair of the National Road from Cumberland to Wheeling, has been partially carried into effect. An agent for the superintendence of the same was appointed, who reported to this department, in the month of September last, that contracts to the amount of \$17,000, would be completed by the first of October. In consequence of the subsequent decrease of this agent, a successor has been appointed, but no report as to the condition of the work has yet been received from him.

Under the act of May 24th, 1824, to improve the navigation of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers, the removal of snags, sawyers, and other impediments to the navigation, has been successfully prosecuted. In my report of last year it was stated that intelligence had been received of the death of the agent who had been appointed to superintend the execution of the work, and that a temporary agent had been selected. Since that time, a gentleman of Kentucky, who was highly recommended for his knowledge of the difficulties in the navigation of these rivers, as well as for his zeal and activity, has been chosen to superintend the removal of the obstructions, and has successfully progressed in improving the navigation of the Mississippi below the mouth of the Ohio, as far as circumstances would permit, but owing to the unusually high state of the

water, it was found impossible to proceed as rapidly as had been anticipated. By his last report, however, it appears that he had removed the principal obstructions to the navigation on a distance of one hundred and eighty miles below the mouth of the Ohio.

Under the act of March 2d, 1827, for improving the navigation of the Ohio river, an agent was appointed to superintend the execution of the work, who made the necessary arrangements for its vigorous prosecution, but was prevented, by the high state of the water, from accomplishing as much as could have been desired. It is hoped, however, that the next season will offer more favorable opportunities of removing the obstructions, and as the person to whom the direction of the work has been committed, was highly recommended for his ability and zeal, there is every assurance of the work being faithfully executed.

HIGHLY IMPORTANT INTELLIGENCE.

THE TURKISH FLEET ENTIRELY DESTROYED!

Office of the Mercantile Advertiser, New York, Sunday, Dec. 13, 2 o'clock.
The ship William Thompson, and Helen, capt. Coobb, have just arrived from Liverpool, both having sailed on the 27th November.

They bring the important intelligence of the total destruction of the Turkish and Egyptian fleets.

LONDON, NOVEMBER 15.

Despatches were yesterday morning received at the Admiralty, announcing a brilliant victory, obtained on the 20th October, in the port of Navarino, by the English, French, and Russian squadrons, over the combined Turkish and Egyptian fleet.

The battle was fought at anchor, and was necessarily bloody and destructive.—The numerical superiority of the force was immense, but the result has been, we are proud to say, the destruction of the whole Turkish force.

The following is a synopsis of the forces:
Line, Frigates, Corvettes, Sloops, &c. Total.
English 3 4 0 4 11
French 3 2 0 2 7
Russian 4 4 0 0 8
Allies 10 10 0 6 26
Turks 3 19 26 10 60

Four of the frigates were, in fact, sixty-four gun ships, and there were forty transports moored behind the line of battle.—The following is a statement of the fate of the enemy's fleet: One Turkish line of battle ship burned; two driven on shore, a wreck; two burned; fifteen frigates burnt and sunk; three on shore, wrecks; one on shore, masts standing—fifteen corvettes burnt and sunk; four on shore, wrecked; 6 brigs burnt and sunk; one on shore, masts standing—six fire ships destroyed and three transports. Of the sixty-six vessels of war, only eight are left afloat; the most perfect victory ever achieved.

The despatches were brought to Marseilles by Lord Viscount Inglestrie, in the Gannet, where his Lordship was detained by the quarantine regulations; but the authorities permitted the despatches to be forwarded by a courier. They arrived at the Admiralty, yesterday morning, and were immediately sent off to His Majesty, at Windsor.—*Mercantile Advertiser.*

A Society of "Friends," a portion of those who hold opinions with Elias Hicks, are now erecting a large building for public worship, on the north side of Cherry street, between Fourth and Fifth streets.
U. S. Gaz.

More "honour."—Says the Schuylkill (Penn.) Journal, "Some time last week, two coloured persons, at a public house near Joanna Furnace, had a dispute while playing at cards. They agreed upon butting, or fighting head to head, when one was unfortunately killed. The survivor was lodged in the county jail."

NORTH-CAROLINA.

Raleigh, Dec. 13.—On Thursday last, Thomas Sittle, Esq. of Rockingham, was unanimously chosen Speaker of the House of Commons, in the place of Gen. Iredell, elected Governor.

On Monday last John Scott, Esq. of Millsborough, was elected Solicitor General.

The Committee appointed to investigate the accounts of the Treasury Department, made a report on Tuesday last, from which it appears that there is a deficit of \$63,631 80. The Report was ordered to be printed, five copies for each member, and will therefore soon appear before the public.

On Saturday last, at 12 o'clock, Gov. Iredell took the oath of office, in the presence of both branches of the Legislature. He was attended by Ex Governor Burton, and the Committee appointed for that purpose.

TWENTIETH CONGRESS.

FIRST SESSION.

Thursday, December 13.
SENATE.

In the Senate, Mr. Johnson, of Ky. submitted a resolution for the examination of a site on Licking river, Kentucky, for the establishment of a National armory, similar to that at Harpers ferry. Mr. Dickerson gave notice that he should to morrow introduce a bill for the distribution of a portion of the revenue of the United States among the several States. A resolution was submitted by Mr. Ruggles, for the establishment of certain Rules in relation to the mode of doing business in the Senate. The bill for the abolition of imprisonment for debt was reported from the committee on that subject, with amendments, and made the order of the day for Wednesday next.

Mr. Hendricks submitted the following resolution, which was considered and agreed to.

Resolved, That the committee on Public Lands be instructed to inquire what further provision is necessary to be made by law for bringing into market the lands lately purchased from the Indians.

The following committee of five was appointed by ballot: Messrs. Hendricks, Marks, Bates, Thomas and King.

On motion of Mr. Hendricks, it was.

Ordered, That a select committee of five be appointed as a Committee on roads and canals.

Messrs. Hendricks, Marks, Bates, Thomas and King were appointed the committee.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

In the house of Representatives a number of petitions were presented, and resolutions offered. Among the latter, was a resolution offered by Mr. Brent, to institute an inquiry into the situation of the public lands in this city. A resolution was offered by Mr. P. P. Barbour, referring it to the committee of Ways and Means to inquire into the expediency of throwing into market the stock of seven millions held by the United States. Mr. Barbour explained that his chief object was to obtain the premium at which the stock now stands, and apply it towards the extinguishment of the public debt. It was replied by Mr. McDuffie and Mr. Gorham, that the very rumor of the intention of the Government to throw the amount of stock into the market, and to withdraw from its connection with the bank, would reduce the stock to its par value. The resolution, on motion of Mr. Gorham, was then laid on the table.

On motion of Mr. Smith, of Indiana, it was.

Resolved, That the committee on Military Pensions be instructed to inquire into the expediency of granting to Sarah Jones, of the State of Indiana, widow of William Jones, late private in the army of the United States during the late war, one quarter section of land, and such sums of money as were due to her said husband at the time of his death; and that the petition, and other documents relative to her claim be referred to the same committee.

On motion of Mr. Jennings, it was.

Resolved, That the Committee on the Public Lands be instructed to inquire into the expediency of vesting in the Trustees who have been appointed by the inhabitants of the Illinois Grant in the State of Indiana, and their successors in office, the fee simple of certain lands appropriated by Congress for the use of common schools within the limits of said grant, conformably to the provisions of an act of the General Assembly of said State.

Friday, December 14.

In the SENATE Mr. Harrison submitted a resolution providing for the better accommodation of the Reporter of the proceedings of the Senate. Some discussion arose on the propriety of receiving the petition of Richard Hall, a British subject; the objections to receiving it were grounded upon the provision of the Constitution, which secures the right to petition to citizens of the United States, alone; the petition was laid on the table. Among other resolutions offered, were two by Mr. Smith of Maryland, relative to our commercial regulations: one respecting drawbacks, and the other for the erection of additional public Warehouses. A short time was spent in Executive business.

In the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, after the presentation of petitions, several reports were made from the standing committees. Among these, a bill was reported by Mr. Issacks, from the committee on public lands, to revive and continue in force the several acts for the relief of purchasers of public lands. This bill continues the provisions of the former bills to July 1829. A bill was introduced by Mr. Wright, relative to the sale of lands conveyed to the United States in certain cases, which was referred to the Committee

on Judiciary. A communication from the Treasury Department was laid before the House, enclosing the opinion of the Attorney General in the case of Thaddeus Laughlin, which was unfavorable to the petitioner. A memorial from Stephen Simpson and J. W. Randal of Philadelphia against the election of Mr. Sergeant, was presented, read, and referred to the committee on Elections. A memorial was also presented from Captain Samuel Augustus, formerly of the Navy, praying to be re-enlisted in his rank in the profession. Many resolutions were offered and adopted, but none of them are of great moment.

Monday, December 17.

In the SENATE, Mr. Harrison's resolution, for the better accommodation of the Reports of the proceedings of the Senate, was agreed to. Mr. Hayne presented the memorial of sundry citizens of Boston and its vicinity, praying that no additional duty be imposed on imports, especially of Woolens, which was read, and referred. The committee of Finance reported, without amendment, the bill repealing, in part, the duty on imported Salt. Mr. Ridgely submitted a Resolution, referring to a select committee of five the revision and arrangement of the Rules of the Senate. Mr. Johnson, of Ky. submitted a Resolution for the examination of all the sites on the Western Waters, hitherto proposed as suitable for the establishment of a National Armory, in substitution of the resolution withdrawn by him on Friday. Mr. Webster appeared and took his seat.

The Bill authorizing the State of Indiana to sell the lands heretofore appropriated for the use of Schools in that State, was taken up for consideration in the Committee of the whole.

Mr. Benton thought it proper, besides that some limitation should be imposed on the sale. The Legislature should be restricted from selling the land until another election for the State Legislature, made after the passage of the act of Congress, shall have taken place. In that case, the question will be placed fully and fairly before the people of Indiana. He made the suggestion for the consideration of those who were interested in the Bill. He did not himself wish to offer any amendment, unless the quantity of land to be disposed of was very large.

Mr. Hendricks was neither prepared to adopt nor to offer any amendment. He would prefer the bill as it is, but he was willing that it should lie on the table for further consideration, particularly as his colleague, Mr. Noble, who introduced it, was not in his seat.

The Bill was, on motion laid on the table.

In the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, a desultory discussion took place on the subject of the entry on the Journal of Friday of the proceedings on the bill introduced by Mr. Wright, of Ohio, relative to the sale of lands conveyed to the U. S. in certain cases. The bill had been introduced with leave of the House, and was read twice and committed to the Committee on the Judiciary, and was so entered on the Journal. This entry was alleged to be the entry of a proceeding contrary to the rules of the House, which require that bills thus introduced by the courtesy of the House, should be sent to a committee to be prepared, before they could be subjected to legislative action. It was moved by Mr. Taylor, to rescind so much of the proceedings of Friday as were subsequent to the asking and obtaining leave to introduce the bill referred to, and this motion being successful, that part of the proceedings was rescinded, and the motion of Mr. Wright was then referred to the committee on the Judiciary, with instructions to prepare and report a bill. Several private bills were reported, read and committed, and a great number of petitions and resolutions were received. A communication was received from the Postmaster General, in reply to a resolution, on the subject of the obstructions on the National Road between Natchez and New Orleans.

On motion of Mr. SMITH, of Indiana, it was.

Resolved, That the Committee on the Public Lands be instructed to inquire into the expediency of appropriating to the inhabitants of Township No. 11, north of Range No. 2, west, and Townships No. 13 and 14 north of Range No. 44, east of the second principal meridian, lying in the county of Union, in the State of Indiana, a sum of money equal to the value of a section of land, or of allowing said inhabitants to locate one section of United States land, to be appropriated to the use of schools in said Townships, there being no lands in these Townships, or contiguous thereto, for the use of their schools; and that the papers relating thereto be referred to said committee.

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