

THE DEMOCRAT.

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Thursday, February 11, 1869.

PUBLIC DEBT.

The Chicago Times says; the statement of the public debt, on the beginning of the present month, shows an increase of over fifteen millions of dollars.

On the 1st day of January, the debt less cash in the treasury, was \$2,540,707,201.35. On the 1st day of February it was 2,556,205,655.08. Increase..... \$15,418,457.83.

The February statement, as compared with that of January, shows that the debt bearing coin interest has increased \$14,700.00. The debt bearing currency interest has \$1,545,000.00. The debt bearing no interest has been decreased \$43,178,088.10. It is noticeable that, while the debt bearing interest has been increased both in the gold and currency bearing obligations, that portion which bears no interest has been decreased. It is not possible to control the increase of interest-bearing indebtedness during a single month, but the general policy of the treasury seems to be directed, when the matter is within its control, at aiming to decrease only those obligations which bear no interest, and which are therefore less felt by the people. If the interest-bearing debt could as regularly be contrasted as the non-interest debt, we should soon begin to feel the benefit of the policy.

On the 1st of February the amount of coin in the treasury was less by \$10,030,652.47 than it was on the 1st of January. The amount less in currency for the same time was \$4,493,240.54. It is thus seen that, while there has been a decrease of the amount in the treasury of \$5,652,412.22, there has been an increase in the public debt to the amount of \$15,418,457.83.

These public debt statements are anything but encouraging. They demonstrate that neither sagacity nor economy is engaged in the management of the finances. There is always shown the policy of endeavoring to increase the value of the interest-bearing debt,—already insidious in the character of much of its interest,—and the effort to lessen that which bears no interest and upon whose continuance at its present dimensions the business of the country depends for its healthful existence. The lack of economy is equally marked. In the February statement, it is shown that something like \$8,000,000 was issued for the war and navy departments; and this at a time when the nation has no war save an insignificant difficulty with a few half starved Indians. Alongside this statement of a payment of \$8,000,000 in a single month, for departments which ought to be approximately shut up, there is the statement of \$30,000,000 paid out as interest on the public debt. There is no reason whatever, save in the obstinacy of the treasury department, backed by the demands of the bondholders and national bank interests, together with a policy that necessitates the support of an extensive army and navy, to prevent a material reduction in expenses, and a reduction, in some cases, of rates of interest, and in other cases their entire abrogation. The payments for civil, miscellaneous, and foreign intercourse, for January, amounted to some \$15,000,000.

Who can doubt that either repudiation or bankruptcy must follow a policy in which lavish expenditure is the invariable rule? It is not enough that the nation must pay a round bonus to national banks for the privilege of allowing them to issue their notes with out interest; that we must support armies and fleets in time of peace; that we must have a civil service which is twice or thrice as expensive as that of any other nation of equal size; that our circulating medium must be contracted and the interest on our debt be constantly made more burdensome. In addition to all this, the nation is called upon to afford more cutlery, to grant more subsidies, to endure a larger burden of taxation.

If the next congress and the next administration be no more wise or economical than the present one, then will the people have good reasons to fear the worst.

CATTLE DISEASE.

NEW YORK, Feb. 3.—Several cattle have recently died from some unknown disease on Haight's farm, at Fishkill in this state. There is much excitement among the farmers.

FARMERS are making preparations for the manufacture of maple sugar. Advances from some parts of the state mention small quantities already manufactured.

CORRESPONDENCE.

INDIANAPOLIS, Feb. 8, 1869.

Ed. Democrat:

The house of representatives has accomplished very little the past week of general interest. The contested election case of Beatty vs. Peale, from the counties of LaPorte and Starke, resulted in the ousting of Mr. Peale, the democratic sitting member, on the ground that he was constitutionally ineligible. He holds a common as justice of the peace in Starke county, which does not expire until sometime in April next. On this ground Mr. Beatty made the contest and obtained the seat on a strict party vote. Mr. Coffroth made a most exhaustive argument in favor of referring the matter back to the people of that district, showing plainly that although Mr. Peale could not hold the seat, Beatty had no more legal or moral right to represent that district than any other man who was voted for. I have nothing to say against Mr. Beatty. His bearing since he has been here has been that of a gentleman. He looks "like a cat in a strange garret," and I am satisfied that if he had carried out the dictates of his own conscience he would have abandoned the contest long ago. The speaker got considerably mixed up in stating the questions in the reports of the majority and minority committees. The minority committee reported that Mr. Peale was not entitled to the seat, and also that Mr. Beatty had no right to it. The House refused to concur in this report. The majority report stated that Mr. Beatty was entitled to the seat, and that Mr. Peale was not. Mr. Coffroth asked for a division of the question which was granted, and the first part of the proposition was put first, of course, and was carried. So Beatty was in before Peale was out, and for the space of ten minutes the house was composed of 101 members. The report as a whole was then put, and the democratic members found themselves in a considerable of a mix. They desired to vote "no" on the first part of it, and "I" on the last part. Some of the members refused to vote while others explained that believing Peal had a better right to the seat than Beatty, they voted that Peale was entitled to the seat. Mr. Beatty was then sworn in, and Mr. Coffroth asked for a permanent leave of absence for Mr. Peale, which was granted, and the house adjourned amid much merriment and general good feeling.

Saturday the legislature to the number of about 130 took a free ride to Terre Haute to visit the state normal school building, now partially completed. One hundred thousand dollars is wanted from the state to complete it. Dinner was served at the Terre Haute House. The good things were discussed as only hungry legislators can. Champagne flowed like water, and the utmost good feeling prevailed. If the bill appropriating the amount had been presented to the members at 3 o'clock it would have passed without a single dissenting vote. Sunday morning not more than 50,000 could have been appropriated, while this morning I think it doubtful whether a bill appropriating a cent could be passed.

The Clew murder trial begins to morrow. About 250 witnesses have been subpoenaed. If that is not enough to baffle a jury it is strange to me.

Miss Clara Louis Kellogg, the great American Prima Donna, and her troupe gave a concert here on Saturday night. Three concerts in Chicago brought her \$8,000. How's that for high?

DANBURY FLOOD.

NEW YORK, Feb. 3.—Full particulars of the disaster at Danbury, Conn., state that the upper reservoir, which was first to give way, is situated 250 feet above the level of the river, which runs through the town, and is distant from it about five miles. The loss of property by the torrent is estimated at \$100,000. Thirteen lives were lost. Only five bodies have been recovered. The others it is supposed, have lodged under cakes of ice and the timbers, which were swept down stream a great distance. Three dams and five bridges were swept away. Danbury would now be helpless in case of fire.

INDIANAPOLIS CORRESPONDENCE.—Our regular correspondence from Indianapolis will be found in this issue of the Democrat, and contains all of any especial interest that has transpired there during the past week, in the legislature.

We received another communication from there, but it came to hand too late for insertion, as our forms were up, when it was handed to us.

All articles intended for publication in our paper, should be directed to the PLYMOUTH DEMOCRAT, and sent in time to reach us on Tuesday at the farthest.

FINANCIAL.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3.—The senate passed an unimportant appropriation bill, and discussed the constitutional suffrage amendment.

The ways and means committee this morning discussed at length the banking and currency question, together with the various bills before them pertaining to that subject. That of Mr. Schenck, however, was the main one considered. The republicans on the committee evince some reluctance to taking action on the finances.

The proposition of the Louisville capitalists to buy the canal around the falls at that point has been communicated to the senators informally, and has led to much inquiry and discussion.

The impression prevails that congress will extend the time for the withdrawal of spirits from bond, by the payment of 10 per cent. on the value of the same.

Owing to the payment of over \$39,000,000 interest on bonds, the public debt statement for last month will show an increase on the total amount of debt of about \$15,000,000.

Senator Wilson is of the opinion that the time has come for erecting the revenue bureau into a distinct department of the government, with a secretary at its head, holding a seat in the cabinet. He believes there is no man in the country to-day adequate to the responsibility of managing the treasury as it ought to be managed while it is encumbered as at present.

Thus far political disabilities have been removed from about 100 persons. Some 300 or 400 applicants are pending in the committee on reconstruction. One third of them are from Virginia.

SENATE.

Mr. Morrill of Maine, from the committee on appropriations, reported a bill providing for the payment of the salaries of employees in the patent office for January and February, and moved its immediate consideration.

Mr. Ross introduced a bill to encourage the growth of forest trees. Referred.

Mr. Conkling introduced a bill to encourage the building of steamships in the United States. Referred to the committee on finance.

Mr. Grimes offered a resolution directing the secretary of the interior to furnish a list of the claims and claimants for compensation for depredations committed by Indians in northwest Iowa, during 1857, and since. Adopted.

HOUSE.

New bills from 133 to 171 were introduced and referred. The special railroad committee reported two bills for the amendment of the Terre Haute railroad charter.

A resolution was adopted for a committee for a monument to the memory of Gen. P. A. Hackleman, to be erected by the citizens.

A bill, appropriating \$12,000 for furnishing the wards and subsisting the patients in the north wing of the hospital for the insane, was recorded and ordered to be engrossed.

A joint resolution proposing the disbanding of the armies in the southern states was indefinitely postponed, by yeas 45, nays 38.

The public printing office bill was taken up and made the special order for tomorrow.

SENATE.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Feb. 8.—The proposition of the Monroe county commissioners, bidding \$50,000 for the location of the agricultural college and the State university, was referred to the joint committee thereon.

The committee on prison were authorized to appoint a sub-committee of their own number to examine the condition and management of the state prison south, with full powers.

Mr. Hughes proposed a bill, which contemplates a radical change in the educational system of Indiana, by increasing the endowment of the state university at Bloomington, and endowing a law school and law library therein; by appropriating thereto any net revenue that may arise from the state prison, or either of them; providing free tuition in said university; establishing and endowing at Indianapolis a medical department of said university; providing \$50,000 for contingent expenses connected therewith, and for the sale or lease of square No. 25, in Indianapolis, and empowering the city of Indianapolis to purchase said square, and for the investment of the proceeds thereof for said medical department; declaring the state normal school at Terre Haute a branch of said university, and appropriating \$75,000 for the same.

The bill to facilitate the making of civil actions was ordered to be engrossed.

The bill to authorize the city of Indianapolis to occupy part of the state grounds in said city was laid upon the table.

The joint resolution instructing and requesting our congressmen to make

LEGISLATURE.

SENATE.

INDIANAPOLIS, Feb. 3.—New bills from 161 to 173, were introduced and referred.

The special joint committee on finances recommended the adoption of a joint resolution instructing our senators, and requesting our representatives, to oppose the passage of any bill that shall legalize coin contracts until the legal currency shall be redeemed in coin. The report was concurred in, and the resolution passed, by yeas 30, nays 6.

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CONGRESSIONAL.

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The proposition of the Louisville capitalists to buy the canal around the falls at that point has been communicated to the senators informally, and has led to much inquiry and discussion.

The joint resolution on the national finances, favoring the receipt by the United States treasury of the United States bond coupons for the payment of duties, &c., after a lengthy discussion, was laid on the table.

The state rights resolutions offered by Mr. Sherrod, involving the suffrage question, came up on the pending motion to lay on the table, which was agreed to by yeas 19, nays 3.

Mr. Kinley offered a resolution embracing the first sentences of the Declaration of Independence. Mr. Carson moved to amend by inserting after "men" the words "without distinction of race, or color."

Mr. Hughes proposed to add after "men" the word "women."

Mr. Kinley thought the meaning of the Declaration so evident that the amendment was unnecessary.

The motion to lay Mr. Carson's amendment on the table was agreed to by yeas 24, nays 12.

Mr. Hughes moved in all seriousness to insert the words "and women" after the word "men," not that he expected to improve upon the Declaration of Independence as it was at that time; but, as we are trying to make a declaration of what is right now, his object was to bring before the senate the rights of women.

The word men was not intended to include women in the administration of the government.

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The joint resolution instructing and requesting our congressmen to make

proper efforts to secure a second district for the court of the United States in Indiana, and that the court be located at Evansville, was passed by yeas 32, nays 3.

The house concurrent resolution, looking to the erection of a monument over the remains of Gen. Hackleman, was concurred in.

The joint resolution on the national finances, favoring the receipt by the United States treasury of the United States bond coupons for the payment of duties, &c., after a lengthy discussion, was laid on the table.

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HOUSE.

The whole afternoon was consumed in the discussion of a proposed amendment to this 147th section of the common school law, so that where the parents or guardians of 25 scholars of one district demand it, the trustees

provide for the teaching of the German language, therein, free of cost.

The proposed change in the law was not to make German the language of the school; but only an additional branch of tuition in the school. The bill was ordered to be engrossed.

TRANCE.

The whole afternoon was consumed in the discussion of a proposed amendment to this 147th section of the common school law, so that where the parents or guardians of 25 scholars of one district demand it, the trustees

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