

INDIANA LEGISLATURE.

[Condensed for the Indianapolis Papers.]

IN SENATE.

DEC. 23.—Mr. Collett, from the joint committee appointed to examine and receive the State House, reported that they had the same under consideration, and that the State House had been, with some trivial exceptions, finished with a proper regard to faithfulness, and in a manner highly creditable to the commissioners, the architect, and the state. The committee felt constrained, no less by a sense of duty than inclination, to tender to Ellet Town, the able, efficient, and accomplished architect, under whose auspices the splendid edifice has been so successfully begun and finished, their unfeigned thanks and cordial approbation.

The committee reported a joint resolution, authorizing the reception of the State House from the contractors, and the resolution was read a third time and passed.

Mr. Conwell introduced a joint resolution, authorizing the call of a convention to amend the constitution, which was read and passed to a second reading.

Dec. 24.—The bill of the House, entitled an act to locate a state road in Dearborn county, from the town of Dillsborough to Aurora, was read a third time and passed.

Dec. 26.—Mr. Whitecomb from the committee, to whom was referred a resolution of the Senate, directing them to inquire into the expediency of increasing the salaries of the supreme and circuit judges and members of the general assembly, reported a bill regulating the salary and pay of certain officers therein named. The bill was ordered to a second reading.

The bill proposes to give to the supreme and circuit judges \$900 per annum and members of the general assembly \$300 per day.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Dec. 21.—On motion of Mr. Thompson, of L., the resolution relative to the abolition of public executions, was taken from the table, and the question recurring on the amendment, proposed by Mr. Huntington, contemplating the abolition of imprisonment for debt, it was put and decided in the negative.

The original resolution was then adopted.

The following resolution was adopted, on motion of Mr. Dunning, after the adoption of an amendment thereto, on the proposition of Mr. Smith of R., viz:

Resolved, That the committee of ways and means inquire into and report to this House what legislation, if any, is necessary, to carry into full force and operation the law of last session entitled "an act to provide for a more equitable mode of levying the state and county revenue," approved Feb. 7, 1835.

Mr. Evans moved the following resolution, which, together with an amendment proposed by Mr. Morris, to make it an enquiry into the expediency &c., was laid on the table at the suggestion of Mr. Huntington:

Resolved, That the committee of ways and means be instructed to report a bill to this House raising the *per diem* wages of the members of both branches of the Legislature to three dollars per day; and the Speaker of the House and President of the Senate to four dollars per day.

A bill to locate a state road in Dearborn county from the town of Dillsborough to Aurora, was read a third time and passed.

The House now resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the bill to amend the act for the formation of Congressional Districts. [The bill proposed to elect Representatives in Congress the August immediately preceding the time of taking their seats.] The bill was stricken out in committee, and in the House postponed indefinitely.

Dec. 22.—On motion of Mr. Evans, the resolution introduced by him, relative to raising the wages of the members of the General Assembly was taken from the table, and then Mr. Evans withdrew the resolution.

On motion of Mr. Graham,

Resolved, That the Judiciary committee be instructed to inquire into the expediency of repealing the 7th section of an act entitled an act, to license and regulate taverns and groceries, with leave to report by bill or otherwise.

Dec. 23.—Mr. Eggleston presented a petition from sundry citizens of Switzerland and Ripley counties, praying for the construction of a turnpike road from Vevay, to intersect the Michigan road at or near Napoleon.

Dec. 23.—On motion of Mr. Kilgore, the case of Mr. Nave was taken up for consideration, when Mr. Quarles closed his argument for the defendant.

The question was taken on the adoption of the resolution—the committee's resolution for Mr. Nave's expulsion,—

and decided in the negative, ayes 25, Noses 45.

On motion of Mr. Buel,

Resolved, That the judiciary committee enquire into the expediency of incorporating all the judicial townships in this state, so as to afford an uniform plan of doing county business—to report by bill or otherwise.

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY.

IN SENATE.

On Saturday, the 2d inst. Mr. Whitcomb, on leave, introduced a joint resolution to instruct our Senators in Congress to use their best exertions by their votes and otherwise, to procure to be *expunged* a resolution of the Senate of the United States, adopted on the 28th of March A. D. 1834, which is in the following words:

Resolved, That the President in the late executive proceeding in relation to the public revenue has assumed upon himself authority and power, not conferred by the constitution and laws and in derogation of both."

Mr. Morgan moved that it be rejected—on which Mr. Whitcomb spoke at some length in its favor: Mr. Shaw rejoined, and was followed by Mr. Collett, at the close of whose speech against the resolution the Senate adjourned.

On the 4th, the Senate resumed the consideration of the Joint Resolution, relative to certain proceedings of the United States Senate, which was introduced and partially considered on Saturday last.

The remainder of the day until half past four o'clock P. M. was occupied with this subject; during which time the Senate was addressed by Messrs. Whitcomb, Shaw, Clark, Conwell, Morgan, Brady, Plummer, Colerick, Shaw again, Whitcomb again, Dumont and Whitcomb again: when the question being put shall the Joint Resolution be rejected, it was decided in the affirmative—

Ayes—Messrs. Beard, Bell, Caldwell, Chambers, Clark, Colerick, Collett, Conwell, Dumont, Elliott, Hamilton, Hillis, Morgan, Payne, Plummer, Shaw, and Thompson—17.

Noses—Messrs. Aker, Boon, Brady, Casey, Daily, Fowler, Griffith, Hackett, Mastin, Puet, Sigler, Stewart, Tannehill and Whitcomb—14.

IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

It having been by common usage established a rule that but little important business is ever transacted by either branch of the General Assembly until after the holidays, that period now being over, the business of the legislature begins to assume a more substantial aspect.

There seems to have been a general drill of the friends of Internal Improvements during the last two weeks, and it is understood, in the House, that the committee on that subject is to report in a few days, a bill providing for a general plan, which, by those who have perused it and are apprised of its provisions, speak of it in terms of approbation, and as one eminently calculated to render general satisfaction, at least so far as it is at all possible. The friends of the general system are solicitous for the appearance of the bill, while those who are not prepared to adopt so general a plan, are busily employed in preparing checks by way of amendments.

The subject of divorces, has been up in the House during last week, and we suppose that the last action of that body on the principle of legislating on divorces, has given the matter a quietus for the present session.

On Saturday morning the Michigan resolution was again taken up, and the vote taken on its indefinite postponement, and decided in the negative.

The question we believe recurs on its passage. The debate on this interesting question has been too protracted for the limits of a newspaper, and if reported and inserted would be to the entire exclusion of every thing else.

Messrs. Liston, Willet, Chamberlain, Thompson of L., Mason, Huntington, Stapp, Evans, Smith of R. and Vawter have been the principal investigators of this subject. From the remarks of these and other gentlemen, we have been enabled to submit the following items:

Those who are friendly to the passage of the Joint Resolution, contend that if Michigan is received into the Union as a state by Congress, with her present boundaries, it will be giving her a *prima facie* title to the ten mile strip off our northern territory, and be a literal sanction to her claim; which must produce unhappy results and be the cause of serious litigation and animosity between the two states, while those who are of the opposite opinion, consider our representatives in Congress sufficient guardians of the rights of Indiana, to prevent any encroachment upon her territory, and even admitting they were not, the boundary line of the state is

too well determined and defined, to admit of any difficulty.

The whole ground has been traversed, and decisions formed accordingly; but what the vote will be on the final disposition of the resolution, we are at a loss to determine.—Both parties agree that the title of Indiana is a good one, to this ten mile strip, but the expediency of adopting the resolution of instruction is the matter of contention.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

No Department of the Executive branch of the Government has, of late years, engaged more of the public attention, than the Post Office; nor has any part of the affairs of that office been the subject of more various comment, than its finances. Almost every possible representation of them has been made in print and in conversation. That the Department was in debt, was conceded on all hands; yet, in the minds of many, if not most, of the People, doubts prevailed as to the amount of its embarrassment. These doubts will now be removed. The Report of the Postmaster General, to which we invite the attention of our readers, presents a clear and satisfactory account of the financial condition of the Post Office. It is as such papers should be, a plain statement, adapted to the comprehension of all, and unvarnished by any thing calculated to divert attention from the facts. The mist engendered in the strife of party, which enveloped the affairs of the Department, has been dispelled by the simple, yet powerful, influence of integrity, ability, and industry. These, assiduously directed to the discharge of the duties of his station, have enabled the Postmaster General, within the brief period of his administration, to fathom the intricacies of Post Office accounts, to develop their results, and, as appears by the Report, to introduce such improvements, as, if continued in operation, will secure for the future, certainty and system.

It appears from the Report of the Postmaster General, that after his accession to the office, on the 1st of May, such measures were taken, that, on the 1st of July, the balance of the debts over the means of the Department, (excluding certain claims which the Postmaster General, did not think himself authorized to allow,) was reduced to \$23,700 59. Including these claims, the balance, then against the Department, will stand \$180,700 59. Such was the then improved condition of the Department, upon a summary of its debts and credits, supposing these last all collected in. As this could not be done, and as a large portion of the means of the Department taken into the above estimate, consisted of these balances due to it, not immediately available, the Report states the measures adopted, as calculated most speedily and satisfactorily to discharge the debts of the Department. The principle chiefly and properly acted upon, was to give preference to payments for services performed in the last quarter throughout the Union, and apply the surplus to the extinction of the old debt.

Having pursued strictly the system adopted, the Postmaster General reports these results:

The payment of all the contractors throughout the Union, for services in the quarter in which he came into office, except some suspensions.

The payment of all such claims for the next quarter, as have been made ready for adjustment.

The discharge of \$187,086 of the old debt out of the postages since July 1st, of which \$67,304 36 was to the banks.

Cash on hand \$73,737.

Claims for arrearages are now paid as fast as they are presented, and can be adjusted.

Only about \$205,000 now remain due to the banks. Of this one-half will be paid in January, and the balance in April.

After the extinction of the debt, and before the close of the present session of Congress, the Department will be in the receipt of an annual surplus of about \$400,000, applicable to the extension of the mail routes.

Various improvements have been introduced into the financial operations of the Department. The chief of these is the system of prompt collections from about 9,000 offices quarterly. No one can fail to perceive the benefit to result from this plan. It keeps the public money from lying idle in the hands of the receivers, subject to the accidents of death, insolvency, &c., and applies it at once to the payment of demands against the Department, without the agency of third persons, or the instrumentality of drafts, laboriously prepared in the office.

The subject of the Transportation of the Mail upon the Railroads, is treated in the Report, in which, and in the doc-

uments accompanying it, several important views are taken. These views, if we mistake not, will be found correct. The questions presented are of consequence, whether we regard the principles involved, or the practical results to flow from their decision.

The events of the year have thrown

into the Report a topic of a novel character in such a place. The Postmaster General has been called out to act respecting a matter of the most serious

public moment. He was to weigh well

the principles of his action, in a case

in which he saw that fanatics would

charge him with the assumption of a

control over one of the dearest rights

of freemen—that of discussion.

The case was without a precedent; and the

obligations of the principles of secondary

law were urged as imperative,

though evidently at variance with the

requirements of a higher code in our

system. The conclusion to which the

Postmaster General came, has been

doubtless highly satisfactory to the

mass of the People of all the States.

The Report rests it, and we think safe-

ly, on permanent principles of consti-

tutional origin. The question of the

right of the Abolitionists to the use of

the mails, stands, as it appears practi-

cally settled by the Department. It

remains to be seen whether the Post-

master General shall be overruled by

higher authority.

The necessity of a Reorganization of

the Department, is suggested. The

views of the Postmaster General on

this subject, are characterized by their

tendency to promote the efficiency of

the service, and introduce into the De-

partment wholesome, and one would

think, considering its revenue, (more

than \$3,000,000,) indispensable checks

in receiving, disbursing, and account-

ing for the public money. The organi-

zation proposed, whilst it would in-

duce system, and effectual legal

checks in lieu of arbitrary and fluctu-

ating executive regulations, has also

the merit of reducing the number of

persons necessary for the service. This

is no small merit, when we consider

that the number of postmasters, con-

tractors, and other agents to be con-

stantly increasing. They are already

more than double the number existing

at the time of the adoption by law of

the present organization; and force em-

ployed to control them.

The Report concludes with a merited

tribute to the worth and virtues of the

late Postmaster General. A tribute be-

speaking respect as well for him who

pays it, as for the memory of him re-

ceiving it.—*Globe.*

NORTHERN BOUNDARY.

The President transmitted to Con-

gress, on the 9th ult., a report from the

Secretary of War, relative to this sub-

ject. In the message accompanying the

report, the President says:

"The controversy between the au-

thorities of the State of Ohio, and those

of the Territory of Michigan, in respect

to this boundary, assumed, about the

time of the termination of the last session

of Congress, a very threatening aspect,

and much care and exertion were nec-

essary to preserve the jurisdiction of the

Territorial government under the acts

of Congress, and to prevent a forcible

collision between the parties. The na-