

INDIANA LEGISLATURE.

IN SENATE, THURSDAY, JAN. 23.

In the orders of the day, the bill of the Senate "in relation to the seat of justice in Dearborn county," came up, and was read a second time.

Mr. Boon moved to lay the bill on the table, which was decided in the negative. The question now being, shall the bill be engrossed for a third reading?

Mr. Plummer said, I hope, Mr. President, the bill will be engrossed and passed as soon as practicable. I would ask the indulgence of the Senate a few moments while I may lay the matter so before you, that you may understand it. It will be remembered that last session, a petition was presented here signed by 1600 citizens. The county seat was relocated at Wilmington. But this relocation did not suit the citizens—hence a petition was drawn up signed by 1400, which I hold in my hand. A remonstrance has also come up, signed by 1600 citizens praying that no further law may be passed on this subject. Since then a memorial has been received asking that the law may be suspended till the Lawrenceburgh incorporation shall be indemnified for the moneys expended by the citizens of that place in rebuilding the court house. However strange it may seem, I am informed that another petition has been got up and signed by about 2000 persons—600 of whom signed the remonstrance—who now ask for a division of the county—have become nullifiers—have turned round and departed from their first position. Strike this 600 from the remonstrance and add them to the petition of 1400, and we have 2000 asking for new legislation on this subject.

Now you see what an awkward position I am placed in. My constituents ask more than I can give—more than all this Senate can give. It appears that the judiciary committee have reported to this Senate that the most safe and judicious course is, to suspend the law, till the people come to their right mind on this subject.

It does seem to me, as a representative of Dearborn county, I cannot pursue a more safe course than to accord with the report of the judiciary committee. I do hope, therefore, that every Senator will take it into consideration, and vote as each may think proper. I can appeal to every member that I have consulted none—asked no pledges to go with me in this matter.

Mr. Boon said, this is a delicate point. It will be recollected that in 1827, we passed a law for the relocation of the county seat in Dearborn county; and last year, we passed another. I then offered some amendments which by the request of this gentleman (Mr. Plummer) I withdrew, telling him at the time if there were any *fuss* hereafter, I would oppose a change, that he might have the law to suit himself. He tells us the people of Dearborn have got wild. Sir, Senators get wild some times. It is time they had come to be sober and act prudently. But, sir, if we pass this law, we shall have petition after petition to change county seats.

Mr. Plummer said he could not understand the Senator from Sullivan. Is he in favor or against this bill?

Mr. Boon replied, I am decidedly against this bill, Mr. President, and shall vote against its passage.

Mr. Plummer said, it will be seen by passing this bill, we don't repeal the law of last session. I would be opposed to that. The object of this bill is to suspend that law till opportunity is given for the present excitement to cease. On the 1st day of January next the law will remain as it now is. It gives the people one year to reflect and compromise. I have found a spirit of accommodation in this Senate heretofore, and trust I shall still find it extended to me on this occasion.

It does seem to me that one year is necessary to allay the present excited feeling on this subject. If I have taken the proper course, I ask Senators to sustain me in it. If I should be so unfortunate as to meet with opposition when I get home, that I may make my appeal to this body. If not—if I have taken a wrong course—I ask you to set me right. I have no disposition here to dictate. So far as I can ascertain what is right, I wish to do it on all occasions, and on none more than the present.

Agreeably to the intimation I gave the other day, I have consulted with the members in the other house, two of whom will go with me. Only one against me.

Mr. President, in conclusion I would remark, that the citizens of Dearborn county are the jury by which my course of conduct is to be tried. If a majority of them shall in future decide I have done wrong, I will hereafter pursue a different course, or resign my seat in this Senate chamber. What I have

said, I have said to men of wisdom, judge ye what I say.

Mr. Shaw said, in order to try the strength of the Senate in reference to this bill, he would move to lay it on the table. He could not consider the 600 citizens who both remonstrated and petitioned as nullifiers. The longer we delay, the better, sir, any action on this bill. I shall have to vote against the suspension of the law of last session.

Mr. Plummer said, it appears, then Mr. President, that the Senator from Knox understands the wishes and interests of Dearborn better than their representatives in the other House. They take the same view of this matter that I do—they are prepared to go in favor of this bill. They understand their business, or ought to understand it, and I think they do know quite as well how to act in this case as the Senator from Knox; or indeed any other Senator. I declare to you, Mr. President, I wish in my soul to do right. I call upon all to do that which in your judgment shall appear right. I repeat it, sir, I have no other interests or end to answer, but to do right.

Mr. Hillis said, I think, Mr. President, with the Senator from Dearborn on the importance of passing at this time, this bill. I do believe there is no Senator here, if the citizens of Lawrenceburgh had remonstrated, who would let the law of last session pass as it did pass. Why did they not remonstrate? They thought it unconstitutional to pass any law changing the county seat; and therefore had no idea that this legislature would interfere with that location. Why not, then suspend that act one year? I do not think this an unreasonable demand. The Senator from Sullivan was right last winter and we were wrong; but we acted on the petition then before us. I do hope therefore that there will be but one mind in this Senate, and that the Senator from Sullivan will give his vote also for the passage of this bill.

Mr. Colver said, I shall vote against this bill, because I entertain not a single doubt on the constitutionality of the law under which the commissioners acted when they located the county seat at Wilmington. But even supposing that law to be questionable as to its constitutionality, would it become the dignity of a legislature to stultify itself, by passing a condemnatory sentence on its own act. No, sir. It is the province of the judiciary tribunals of our State to canvass and determine that fact, and the legislature should not trench on its powers when there is no greater demand for such a departure, than merely to quiet the feuds of a county. Besides, if this law be passed, I know of counties in the north which will make similar applications.

Mr. Plummer said, I am not a lawyer, sir, nor the son of a lawyer. I pretend not to say that the law that was passed last winter was unconstitutional. I will venture an opinion that it is constitutional. The court will decide this however. But inasmuch as a suspension of the law does not repeal the law, I can see no harm that will result from such suspension; but the prospect is much good. But lest I should consume too much time, I repeat, I have never taken any member by the hand or leaned over his shoulder to ask him to vote with me on this bill. Those of you who think with me, will vote with me; those who think differently will vote against me.

Question now being on the engrossment of the bill, it was decided in the affirmative—

AYES, Messrs. Beard, Bell, Caldwell, Casey, Chambers, Clark, Conwell, Daily, Dumont, Elliott, Fowler, Griffith, Hackett, Hamilton, Hillis, Morgan, Payne, Plummer, Puett, Sigler, and Stewart—21.

NAYS—Messrs. Boon, Brady, Colerick, Collett, Shaw, Tammill, and Thompson—7.

THE SPRING TRADE—THE WESTERN MERCHANTS—PHILADELPHIA MARKETS.

Within the last fortnight, we have taken some pains to ascertain the character and the amount of the goods in the warehouses of our importing merchants and wholesale dealers, intended for the Spring Trade,—and we take pleasure in being able to state that whether we speak with regard to variety or quantity, the supply is infinitely superior to that of any former season. Indeed our merchants have prepared themselves for an extraordinary business, and on the most liberal scale, and judging from the indications all about us, they will not be disappointed in their expectations. Unless we are greatly deceived, the Spring business of 1836, at least so far as Philadelphia is concerned, will prove by at least one-third superior to that of any preceding season. The country is in a high state of prosperity—no circumstance has oc-

curred within the last year calculated to cripple the energies or to chill the enterprise of the west—and the purchases made in this city last year, we have reason to believe, gave very general satisfaction. Our canals and rail roads will in the course of a short time, and for several weeks before the New York canals, be in more perfect order than on any former occasion,—the different companies for the transportation of merchandise between this city and Pittsburgh, have prepared themselves with a large number of additional cars—there are already seventeen locomotive engines now in readiness, and the state, apprehensive that this number will be insufficient for the increased trade, is about to prepare ten or fifteen more—so that every thing wears the most auspicious aspect. It will be remembered that last year the tolls on the rail roads and canals amounted for the whole year to some thing more than six hundred thousand dollars. This year the Canal Commissioners estimate that they will reach a million, or four hundred thousand more than last year, so that even with the reduced tolls that are contemplated the business must increase very materially to reach this estimate, which is not considered an extravagant one by any means.

Our New York neighbors will also, no doubt do a handsome business, but we must remember that, by the late disastrous fire, goods to a very large amount were destroyed, hence they will not be so well prepared as on former occasions,—and we must remember that in more than one instance last year, merchants who visited this city, and made their purchases, returned home, saw their goods arrive and deposited them in their stores—then came on for a second supply, and ascertained that some of their neighbors who accompanied them on their first trip, and had made their purchases in New York, were still lingering in that city, unable to get their goods conveyed westward.—The truth is, the business that has been transacted by our neighbors for the last year or two has been so enormous, and their navigation has remained closed till so late a period in the Spring, that it was found impossible to transmit with any degree of despatch, the enormous amount of goods that accumulated on the wharves and in the warehouses at Albany and other depots. Conscious of this, the Canal Board of New York have determined to improve the Canal, but this cannot be accomplished for some years, and in the mean time Pennsylvania will naturally profit. It is right that she should. Our State Debt is about twenty-two millions of dollars—the whole of this vast sum has been expended in constructing facilities for trade and travel to the great West,—and having completed the great chain of improvements it is right that we should begin to derive revenue at least adequate to the interest of the debt. The trade of last year was a very fair commencement. It will no doubt be followed up in the proper spirit this year, and continue to increase until a few years hence, we will be compelled to create additional facilities for the vast trade with the west. In less than a fortnight from this time, the merchants will begin to pour in upon us, for if the present mild weather should continue, the canal will be navigable long before the first of March.—*Bicknell.*

NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 4.

TEXAS.—Gen. Melia arrived in this city on Saturday, from Brazoria, Texas; and on the same day, in the Texian vessel of war Liberty, arrived Col. S. Austin, Gen. Wharton and others of the Texian delegation to the United States. The object is, we believe, to procure arms, ammunition, provisions and volunteers.

Meetings have been called in different parts of Texas to discuss the propriety of an immediate declaration of independence. At Brazoria, from which place only we know the result, the meeting was unanimously in favor of the measure.

The provisional Government is actively occupied in making arrangements for the defence of the country and the better administration of the law. Twenty new municipalities have been formed, and a reserve army has been provided for by legislative enactment.

Four hundred volunteers arrived from the United States during the week ending on the 23d ult. Numbers of well armed, able and resolute men continue to pour in from the United States.

We are sorry that our limited space to-day prevents us from giving further details.—*True American.*

The Louisiana Courier states, that there is not an acre of land west of the Mississippi and south of Red River, that has not been covered by an enter of false claims sustained by perjury.

CONGRESSIONAL.

ABOLITION OF SLAVERY IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

In the House, Jan. 18th, a memorial from sundry citizens of Massachusetts for this object was presented by Mr. J. Q. Adams, and on motion of Mr. Pinckney, the question of its reception was laid on the table. Another petition from 153 ladies of Mass., presented by Mr. Adams, was disposed of in the same way. Also, Mr. McKinney, of Pa., presented two petitions from Pa., for the same object—disposed of in the same way.

On the same day, Mr. Slade, presented memorials praying for the abolition of slavery and the slave trade in the District of Columbia, of 100 females of Cornwall, in the state of Vermont; of 426 females in the county of Addison, in said state; of 336 male citizens of said county; of sundry citizens of McConnellville, in the state of New York; and of the officers and students of Oneida Institute, in said state; which he moved should be referred to a select committee.

Mr. Hammond, of South Carolina, moved that the petitions be not received; which motion was laid upon the table.

Jan. 19th, the Senate resumed the consideration of the Ohio petitions, praying for the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia.

Mr. Leigh addressed the Senate at length in favor of the motion not to receive the petitions; and was succeeded by Mr. Calhoun, Mr. Wright, and Mr. Morris.

Mr. Morris then obtained leave to withdraw the Ohio memorials, in order to examine the language.

The question not to receive the memorial of the Society of Friends in Philadelphia, was then, on motion of Mr. Buchanan, considered the pending question.

On motion of Mr. Morris, the yeas and nays were ordered on this motion.

A brief debate ensued, in which Mr. Calhoun, Mr. King, of Alabama, and Mr. Moore, made a few remarks.

The Senate adjourned.

Jan. 19th, the House resumed the consideration of the resolution heretofore offered by Mr. Jarvis, (Jan. 6th.)

Mr. Holsey, who was entitled to the floor, rose, and spoke at some length in favor of the adoption of the resolution, as a measure of conciliation. He was in favor, also, of the principle of the amendment, and would vote for it as a separate proposition.

Mr. Hawes, deeply regretted, he said, the agitation of this question. Believing that the continuance of the discussion would be injurious to the interests of the country, he felt it to be his duty now to move the previous question.

Mr. Peyton appealed to the gentleman to withdraw the motion.

Mr. Hawes had, he said, stated his reasons for offering the motion, and could not withdraw it.

The question being taken, the House refused to second the motion for the previous question, by a vote of 90 to 100.

Mr. Peyton took the floor, and spoke at great length in support of the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia, (Mr. Wise.)

Mr. Bouldin followed, and, without concluding, gave way to a motion to adjourn; and

The House then adjourned.

Jan. 20th, the resolution of Mr. Jarvis was again debated, but no question taken upon it.

In Senate, Jan. 20th, the question on the memorial of the Society of Friends in Philadelphia, on the subject of Slavery in the District of Columbia, being the next in order,

On motion of Mr. Clay the subject was postponed till to-morrow—Ayes 23.

In Senate, Jan. 21st, Mr. Tyler offered the following resolutions; which, on his motion, were ordered to be printed:

Resolved, That to alter, change, or abolish the right of property in the District of Columbia, without the consent of the owner, would be unjust and despotic, and in violation of the Constitution of the United States.

Resolved, further, That, even with such consent, to interfere with the subject of slavery, not only without but against the consent of the people of Maryland and Virginia, would be in flagrant violation of the public faith, an abuse of trust conferred on Congress by the occasion, and hazardous to the peace and security of these two states.

Resolved, further, That such proceedings would sap the foundation of our constitutional system, which is based on the condition of things as they existed at the time of the adoption of the Constitution, which cannot be altered in so material a point without disturbing the

principle of compromise out of which it originated.

In Senate, Jan. 21st, on motion of Mr. Hubbard, the subject of the abolition of slavery was laid on the table.

In the House, Jan. 21st, the question on the reception of petitions presented by Mr. Adams was taken and again postponed.

Jan. 21st, the House resumed the consideration of the following resolution, heretofore offered by Mr. Jarvis:

Whereas, any attempt in this House to agitate the question of slavery is calculated to disturb the compromises of the Constitution, to engender the Union, and, if persisted in, to destroy the peace and prosperity of the country: Therefore,

Resolved, That, in the opinion of this House, the subject of the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia ought not to be entertained by Congress; and it is further resolved, that, in case any petitions, praying for the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia be hereafter presented, it is the deliberate opinion of the House that the same ought to be laid on the table, without being referred or printed.

The question before the House being the motion of Mr. Wise to amend the resolution by adding the following resolution:

Resolved, That there is no power of legislation granted by the Constitution to the Congress of the U. States to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia, and that any attempt by Congress to legislate upon the subject of slavery, will be not only unauthorized, but dangerous to the union of the states.

Mr. Pickens resumed, and concluded the remarks which he commenced yesterday on the subject of the resolutions.

Mr. Hoar rose to address the House. Mr. Cambreling moved that the House do now proceed to the orders of the day.

The question being taken, it was decided in the negative, 94 to 94.

So the House refused to proceed to the orders of the day.

Mr. Hoar then proceeded to give his views at length on the subject, and, without concluding, gave way to a motion to adjourn.

In the House, Jan. 25th, several petitions were presented for the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia, and the question of their reception laid on the table.

In the Senate, Jan. 28th, Mr. Swift of Vt. presented a petition, and the question of its reception laid on the table.

MILITARY ACADEMY.

Jan. 13th.—The House resumed the consideration of the following resolution offered by Mr. Hawes:

Resolved, That a select committee of nine be appointed to inquire what amendments, if any, are expedient to be made to the laws relating to the Military Academy at West Point, in the State of New York, and also into the expediency of modifying the organization of said institution; and, also, whether it would not comport with the public interest to abolish the same, with power to report by bill or otherwise.

Mr. Mann, spoke at some length in favor of a thorough investigation of the affairs of the Military Academy, and went to some extent into a statement of the reasons which in his opinion rendered it necessary to re-organize or abolish that institution.

Mr. Pierce, of New Hampshire, spoke on the same side of the question, and, without concluding, gave way to a motion for the Orders of the Day.

COINING.—While tearing down a frame house in Vevay, on Monday last, between the ceiling and upper floor, two dies for making counterfeit money and several coins, some finished, were found. The dies were one for a dollar and one for a half dollar.—The house had been owned and occupied by Garrett Perkins, a blacksmith, now of Cincinnati.—*Weekly Messenger.*

CHARLESTON RAIL ROAD.—The House of Representatives, of Kentucky, by a vote of seventy-one to twenty-six, have passed the Bill permitting this road to run through Kentucky. On the reception of this news at Covington, the city was brilliantly illuminated, in the evening, and the joy of the citizens was manifested by the firing of cannon, bonfires, &c.

It is stated in one of the eastern papers, as "an alarming fact" that nearly seven hundred medical students are attending the schools in Philadelphia.

The sugar crop of Louisiana, it is thought will not this year exceed 30,000 hogheads. Eight and a half cents have been refused on the plantation.

The Thames Tunnel is progressing and there is now reason to suppose will be ultimately completed.