

# VEVAY TIMES AND SWITZERLAND COUNTY DEMOCRAT.

## THE VEVAY TIMES:

ISAAC STEVENS, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.  
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From Indianapolis.

We received no paper by the last Indianapolis mail, and we are therefore without later intelligence than the following, which we clip from the Indiana Democrat, of the 18th.

The time of the House for the last few days has been spent upon the most important measures. The report of the Bank Committee removing Mr. Merrill, as member of the State Bank, was concurred in by the House. The federal Senate, as was expected, refused to receive Mr. Merrill. That there was good and sufficient cause, the report and evidence will convince any one.

An important measure of the House reorganizing the board, reducing the number of the Board, the engineer department, and the salaries, is now before the Senate. Whether this federal body will consent to this measure of necessity and economy, is to be seen. From all indications, we fear that the great measures of relief will be defeated by the Senate. If so, there is but one course for the House, and that is, to refuse to pass any revenue bill. It would be manifestly unjust to tax the people, when the Senate refuses to pass wholesome necessary and just laws.

The recess over the holidays, first adopted by a federal Senate, and passed the House by a large majority of the federal members, wasted about three weeks of the session. The two conventions, the democratic on the 8th of January, took up one day of the session, and the federal convention on the 16th, three days of the session. The time actually equaled by the long speeches of Mr. Critt, Judah, Parker, Robinson, of J., and about half a dozen other federal members, is equal to about six weeks—cost the people about \$24,000. When all these items are added together, is it surprising that the legislature can adjourn on next Monday? A democratic legislature—that is, a majority in both branches, could transact all the business of the people in six or eight weeks. As it is now, necessary measures are retarded or defeated by the federal Senate, and the precious time of the House spent in listening to the harangues of federal actors. Next August election, we predict, will set these things to rights."

From the N. O. Tribune, Feb. 12.

### DESTRUCTIVE CONFLAGRATION.

BURNING OF THE ST. LOUIS EXCHANGE AND HOTEL.—LAMENTABLE DISTRACTION OF PROPERTY.—Yesterday morning, between four and five o'clock, the city was alarmed by the tolling of fire bells, and a volume of flame was seen bursting from the roof of that magnificent building the St. Louis Exchange. The fire commenced in the attic on Royal street, and advanced with slow but resistless progress along the front of the building on St. Louis street. The engine and hose companies exerted themselves as if each man was laboring for the preservation of his own home and property, but it was too evident that the seal of doom was laid upon that beauiful structure. When day dawned the fire had not reached the ball room, that gorgeous apartment unsurpassed in splendor by any in the Union. Still the flames were raging through the sleeping rooms above, and from these but little of the costly furniture was saved except the bedding, which was hastily thrown from the windows. Magnificent polished mahogany bedsteads, sofas and tables, rich carpets, mantel glasses, curtains, &c., all were left to glut the devouring element. The persevering firemen dragged their hose up the winding iron staircase to the very top of the rotunda, but nothing less than a descending carabat could have then checked the advance of the flames. We stood in the ball room when the fire was entering through the doors nearest to Royal street. Men were in the galleries hurling over chairs and stools while others were hurrying with them down the stairs. Some were making vain efforts to save the magnificent chandeliers, but all they could do was to tear away the glass ornaments. Two of the large looking glasses lay shattered on the floor, the rest were probably saved.

The fire raged steadily on, and no one could have anticipated that a vestige of combustible matter about the building would be saved from annihilation, yet owing to the indomitable spirit of the firemen, a portion of the edifice has been preserved. The dome of the rotunda fell between seven and eight o'clock, and the firemen now drew up their hose with ropes from Charlevoix street to the roof of the building, by this method at last obtaining some command over the flames.

But the St. Louis Hotel, the pride of Orleans and Louisiana, the wonder and admiration of strangers, the most gorgeous edifice in the Union, is levelled with the earth. The magnificent hall where merchants congregated, the saloon where beauty gathered for the dance, the elegantly furnished hotel, the bar-room, the brilliant room, the numerous offices and stores that were contained within the vast walls of the building, all are swept away, and the construction that cost five years labor to raise has fallen in five hours desolation.

The Improvement Bank at the corner of St. Louis and Chartres streets, was in that portion of the building, which was preserved. Although great injury was done to this part of the edifice by the water, the flames only swept over the roof and upper story. The total amount of loss must be immense. The building cost \$600,000, besides which the valuable furniture of the hotel, must have been worth a vast sum. There were doubtless private losses, too, among the boarders, who were hurried from their beds in great confusion. Two firemen belonging to No. 13, were injured, but not seriously. Two other persons received trifling hurts, but no lives were lost.

J. H. WEBB.

T. J. Bland, Edenton, N. C.

FATAL AFFRAY.—A young man from Lexington, Ky., named Wm. R. Bell, who emigrated to Houston, Texas, found there a school-boy acquaintance named Rhoton, with whom he became intimate until he learned that Rhoton was a bad character. Rhoton circulated a malicious report that Bell had stolen his pocket book. The next, and a quarrel ensued, Bell attacked him with a dirk knife, inflicting wounds that caused his death.

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Respectfully yours,

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Durham, Green county, N. Y.

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## Congressional. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

February 12, 1840.

The Speaker announced that the first business in order was the motion of Mr. Casey, to refer the memorial of the National Road Convention, held at Terre Haute, Indiana, to the Committee of Ways and Means, with instructions to report a bill appropriating \$150,000 to each of the States of Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois to be expended on the Cumberland road.

Mr. Hoffman was entitled to the floor addressed the House at some length in opposition to the resolution. He was in favor of appropriations for this road; but was opposed to the manner in which the measure was now brought before the House. He also objected to any action on the subject until the House had obtained some information with regard to the views of the Executive.

Mr. Hubbard then followed in opposition to the motion for instructions, as well as opposing any appropriations for this road on constitutional grounds.

Mr. Howard of Indiana next addressed the House at great length, and with much force and ability, in favor of continuing the appropriations of this great work. His argument was to convince the House that there was good and sufficient cause, the report and evidence will convince any one.

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The House adjourned.

### Debate in the House of Representatives.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14.

The House of Representatives has been for several days engaged in debating a resolution of instruction to the Committee of Ways and Means, in regard to an appropriation for the Cumberland road. Many question could possibly be discussed in the House without involving party differences, we supposed this to be the one. Men of all parties, in all sections of the Union, have indiscriminately voted for and against it. Men of all parties are alike deeply interested in the welfare of the various state securities held by the stock nobility, we are not prepared to say. In either event, as we are not to be scared, we hope and trust that our government will, if it has not already, take immediate notice of this indubitable evidence of British friendship, by preparations for defence, at least equal to those made, we presume, for attack. The Republican states that the situation of the North Eastern Boundary Question, at the present time, renders this question of vast importance to the inhabitants of the frontier. We are assured from good authority, that the British have commenced the building of two steam frigates at Chippewa, below this city, under the superintendence of an agent from England. We learn also, from the Detroit papers, that barracks, nearly opposite that city, are nearly completed, for the accommodation of two thousand men; with block houses, stockades, and batteries, sufficient to batter down the city, whenever Her Majesty's officers deem proper. The fort at Malden has been undergoing repairs, all summer, and a series of formidable preparations is going on, upon the whole line of the frontier, from Mackinaw to Passamaquoddy. These preparations can not have a sole reference to the incursion of refugee patriots. They must be made in anticipation of more serious difficulties between the powerful nations who hold jurisdiction on each side this line.

Now comes the question, are we prepared?

Let every friend of his country ask this question.

Let our Congress ask the question, and let them answer it in such a manner, as shall vindicate the honor and courage of the American Republic.

—New Era.

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St. Joseph, Jan. 29.

INDIANA.—An express has just arrived (Tuesday morning) from Indianapolis, with a letter from Mr. J. L. Smallwood, merchant of that place, stating that on Monday night the family of Mrs. Harlan, about six miles from Indianapolis, were all murdered and the premises burnt, by a party of Indians, supposed to be about twenty in number. The citizens of that neighborhood were without arms or ammunition, and call for assistance. The Indians will either remain in the Appalachians, swamps, or make for the eastern arm of St. Andrew's Bay. A company hence, under the command of Col. Fitzpatrick, has gone in pursuit of them.

APPALACHICOLA, (P. F.) January 29, 1840.

We this morning received the distressing intelligence that the family of Mr. Rowlett, at Rowlett's Mills, in this county, about thirty miles from this city, were massacred by a party of Indians just before sundown last evening. Mr. P. W. Rowlett and a number of men were shot down by the Indians before they had shown themselves. The Indians then approached the house, and the inmates were shot down in endeavoring to make their escape. Mrs. Hollis, a daughter of Mr. Daniel Rowlett, was seen to run some distance from the house before she fell. A negro man was shot near the house. One individual, a Mr. Robinson, we believe, who was near the premises, alone escaped to tell the story. The elder Mr. Rowlett and one of his sons were from home when the massacre took place.—*Guardian*.

"Are we Prepared?"

It appears from the *Buffalo Daily Republican* that the Government of Great Britain are making warlike preparations on the Canada line. The anticipations certainly call for these demonstrations on the part of that government. Whether it be its intention to frighten us into a dishonorable settlement of the North Eastern Boundary question, or to compel our general government to give to Chancellor Baring of the British Exchequer, "a more comprehensive guarantee" for the various state securities held by the stock nobility, we are not prepared to say. In either event, as we are not to be scared, we hope and trust that our government will, if it has not already, take immediate notice of this indubitable evidence of British friendship, by preparations for defence, at least equal to those made, we presume, for attack. The Republican states that the situation of the North Eastern Boundary Question, at the present time, renders this question of vast importance to the inhabitants of the frontier. We are assured from good authority, that the British have commenced the building of two steam frigates at Chippewa, below this city, under the superintendence of an agent from England. We learn also, from the Detroit papers, that barracks, nearly opposite that city, are nearly completed, for the accommodation of two thousand men; with block houses, stockades, and batteries, sufficient to batter down the city, whenever Her Majesty's officers deem proper. The fort at Malden has been undergoing repairs, all summer, and a series of formidable preparations is going on, upon the whole line of the frontier, from Mackinaw to Passamaquoddy. These preparations can not have a sole reference to the incursion of refugee patriots. They must be made in anticipation of more serious difficulties between the powerful nations who hold jurisdiction on each side this line.

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