

CONGRESSIONAL.

SENATE—Wednesday, January 28.—Mr. Hoar from the committee on judiciary, reported the original bill relating to the enforcement of law in Utah. Petitions were presented and referred.—By Mr. Slater, from the citizens of Oregon and Washington territory, praying that the lands granted to the Oregon Central railroad company be restored to the public domain; also, that of the Northern Pacific. By Mr. Logan, from ex-soldiers of the Union army, praying for the enactment of a general law for the relief of that class of citizens. By Mr. Platt, from Prof. Theodore Wolsley and others, praying for the passage of a law for the collection of divorce statistics. Mr. Logan, from the committee on appropriations, reported favorably the bill making an appropriation of \$11,000 for the improvement of the dam above the pool at the Rock Island arsenal, and asked unanimous consent for its immediate consideration. Pending action on this a message was received announcing the death of Representative Mackey, and the matter was laid over, and the senate, after appointing a committee to attend the funeral, adjourned.

SENATE—Tuesday, January 29.—Mr. Vest, from the committee on public lands, reported favorably the bill repealing the timber culture laws. Placed on the calendar. Mr. Cameron (Wis.) introduced a bill for the establishment of the territory of North Dakota. Mr. Platt offered a resolution for which he asked immediate consideration, directing the committee on postoffices and post roads to inquire whether telegraph charges had been injuriously affected by the large stock dividends by the Western Union company or consolidation of contracts with competing or other companies, and whether through gold stock, telegraph company or otherwise, the Western Union company prescribed rules or regulations for the transmission of press news. Mr. Sherman's resolution on the Virginia and Mississippi elections was taken up. The matter was brought to a vote and the resolution passed—39 yeas, 29 nays. A resolution appropriating \$50,000 for the maintenance of destitute Indians was increased to \$100,000 and passed. The house bills making appropriations of \$375,000 rebate tobacco tax, and \$21,965 for the expenses of the legislature of New Mexico were passed. The bill providing a method for settling incomplete titles to Mexican land grants on lands derived from Mexico in the United States in New Mexico, Wyoming, Arizona and Utah was discussed at length without action.

HOUSE.—The speaker laid before the house a communication from the secretary of war in response to the resolution calling for information as to the average number of commissioned officers in the army from the 4th of March, 1857, and 4th of March, 1861, and between the 4th of March, 1857, and the 4th of March, 1881. The secretary states that for the first period the average number was 2,474, of whom 150 were tried by court-martial, and 122 convicted. Bills were introduced—Mr. Mason, to increase the pensions of widows and dependent relatives of deceased soldiers; Mr. Woods, to prevent the employment of operatives on railway trains more than twelve hours out of twenty-four. Mr. Wilson (Ia.), providing for the inspection and certification of meat products for exportation. Mr. Morrill, pensioning widows and children of deceased soldiers. Mr. Wood, to reduce the tariff rates on the different kinds and qualities of sugar; also, to reduce the duty on woolen goods, flannels, blankets, women's and children's dress goods and ready-made clothing. Mr. Hewitt (N. Y.), to authorize the titles of newspapers to be copyrighted. Mr. Warren (Ohio), to better secure the stability of paper currency.

SENATE—Wednesday, January 30.—Mr. Hale called up the report of the committee on conference of both houses relating to the Greeley relief expedition. The report recommends that the senate recede from its amendment requiring that only persons who volunteer for service shall be detailed for the expedition. Mr. Sherman said if he had known that the bill authorized the secretary of the navy to order any man outside the line of his duty, and thus take his life in his hands, he would not have voted for it. Mr. Saulsbury opposed the bill. If the secretary of the navy wanted to punish any officer, such assignment would afford the opportunity. The hour of 1 o'clock having arrived, the senate proceeded in a body to the house to attend the funeral of the late Representative Mackey. On their return the senate adjourned.

HOUSE.—The following reports were submitted from committees: Mr. Hatch (Mo.), from the committee on agriculture, to establish a bureau of animal industry and prevent the spread of contagious diseases among domestic animals. Mr. Pusey, from the committee on public buildings, appropriating \$100,000 for the completion of the public building at Council Bluffs. Referred to committee of the whole. When the hour of 1 o'clock arrived the public business was suspended, pending the funeral of Representative Mackey, of South Carolina. The casket was borne into the chamber and placed in front of the speaker's desk. Selections of scripture were read by Rev. Dr. E. D. Huntley, and an appropriate address delivered by Rev. Dr. Rush Shippen, of the Unitarian church. After the benediction by the house chaplain, the funeral procession left the chamber, the members of the senate having retired.

SENATE.—Thursday, January 31.—The conference report on the Greeley relief bill was taken up and the senate refused, 25 to 27, to concur in the report, and resolved to appoint a new committee. The chair laid before the senate further papers relative to discriminations against the United States commerce between Cuba and Porto Rico. Also, a communication from the attorney-general saying that his force was not sufficient to supply copies of the papers called for, and asking for an immediate appropriation. A resolution directing the committee on postoffices and post roads to investigate the cost of telegraphic correspondence, and if it had been affected by contracts between the Western Union and other companies, was taken up and agreed to.

HOUSE.—Mr. Anderson, from the committee on public lands, reported a resolution, which was adopted, calling upon the secretary of the interior to explain by what authority 189,000 acres of land were certified in the state of Kansas for the benefit of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe railroad. At the conclusion of the morning hour the house proceeded to the consideration of the calendar. The first bill was that declaring forfeited certain grants of land made in certain states to aid the construction of railroads. It forfeits all lands granted in Mississippi under act of August 11, 1856, except the grant to the railroad from Jackson to the Alabama state line; also the grants in Alabama under acts of June 3, 1856, and March 3, 1851, for a road from Elyton to the Tennessee river, and the Memphis and Charleston and Savannah and Albany roads. The speaker laid before the house the report of the secretary of state and accompanying papers relative to the restrictions of American hog products into Germany and France. After a clash as to what committee it should go to, it was ordered printed and laid on the table.

HOUSE—FRIDAY, January 27.—The conference which was asked for by the senate on the Greeley relief bill was agreed to. Randall and Calkins were appointed as conferees. The speaker appointed Ellis, Holman and Ryan as conferees on the part of the house on the bill appropriating \$50,000 in support of destitute Indians in Montana. The morning hour was dispensed with, and the house went into committee of the whole (Springer in the chair) on the Fitz John Porter bill. A number of short speeches were made on both sides of the question. Mr. Steele moved to strike out the name of Fitz John Porter and insert the name B. Barnett. Rejected. Mr. Calkins offered a substitute providing for the convening of a court martial to review the case. Lost. Mr. Converse offered an amendment making Fitz John Porter's retirement compulsory. This was agreed to in the committee, but subsequently reversed in the house. Mr. Bayne offered an amendment striking out the words "appointment under it," and inserting the "passage of this act." Agreed to. The bill then passed—yeas, 184; nays, 78. When Poland cast his vote in the affirmative there was a round of applause on the democratic side. The following members were among those who paired: Blackburn, White (Ky.), Brown (Pa.), Ermentrout, Howey, Hitt, Eaton, Wall, Budd, George, Kasson, Falbot, Kelley, Randall, Miller (Pa.), Ketcham, Warner (Ohio), Wilson (Iowa), Rice, Covington, Holton, Valentine, Hardy and Ellis.

Nebraska Grand Army Encampment.

FREMONT, January 30.—In the Grand Army encampment held here to-day, it was decided on the first ballot that the reunion would be held at Fremont. The time has not yet been fixed upon. The vote stood, for Fremont, 267; for Columbus, 68.

The council of administration, after a discussion of nearly two days decided to allow the bills incurred at the Hastings reunion last year. But it is expected that they will be set aside when they come before the encampment. Fremont agrees to furnish everything required to conduct the reunion, and a thousand dollars besides. The bid of Columbus provided no bonus whatever. There are 176 post commanders present. The following officers were elected for the department encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic of Nebraska: Commander, H. E. Palmer; senior commander, T. S. Clarkson; junior vice-commander, A. D. Cole; medical director, M. W. Stone; chaplain, J. C. Lewis. The following is the reunion committee: S. B. Jones, J. O. West, John Hammond, F. G. Purcell, G. W. E. Dorsey, I. C. Case and E. W. Morse.

The next encampment will be held at Beatrice.

The Protracted Strike Over.

PITTSBURG, January 30.—The long strike of the window glass workers is at an end, and after seven months of idleness the men will return to work as soon as the furnaces are heated. While both sides made great concessions, the terms at which the work is resumed largely favors the workmen, who will be paid last year's wages until April 1st, when a sliding scale will go into effect, wages thereafter to be governed by card rate, or the glass scale will be subject to changes every four weeks, and the agreement will last until July 1st, and found to work satisfactorily, will probably be adopted for the ensuing year. A number of factories have already started fire. By the resumption 2,500 men will be furnished employment in this city.

Public Debt Statement.

WASHINGTON, February 1.—Decrease of the national debt for January, \$11,958,004; decrease since June 30, 1883, \$5,007,488; cash in treasury, \$398,415,233; gold certificates, \$101,250,620; silver certificates, \$110,137,051; certificates of deposit, \$16,880,000; refunding certificates, \$306,950; legal tenders, \$3,466,810; fractional currency, \$6,987,250.

A Lady's Street Car Discovery.

Indianapolis Times. A day or so ago one of the most prominent and elegant ladies of the city went aboard an Illinois street car. By the time she was seated and had selected a nickel to pay her fare, a well-dressed, good-looking gentleman entered the car, and, seeing that she wished the change deposited in the box, received it from her for that purpose. The lady noticed that the w. d., g. l. gentleman dropped her nickel in the box, but dropped none for himself. She was, of course, surprised and disgusted at the meanness and dishonesty of the transaction. She saw the driver look several times at the box and then into the car, and she imagined he was looking at her. She was uncomfortable, and formed a resolution. When the car arrived opposite her residence she stopped it, and, calling the attention of the driver, pointed out the w. d., g. l. gentleman, and said, in his hearing: "I handed my fare to this gentleman and he put it in the box, but put nothing in for himself." The driver answered: "It's all right, Mrs. —; that's Col. Johnson, president of the street car company."

Served Him Right.

Elevated Railway Journal. Mary was a buxom country lass, and her father was an upright deacon in the Methodist church of a Connecticut village. Mary's plan of joining the boys and girls in a nutting party was frustrated by the unexpected arrival of a number of the "brethren" on their way to a conference, and Mary had to stay at home and get dinner for her father's clerical guests. Her already ruffled temper was increased by the reverend visitors themselves, who sat about the stove and in the way. One of the good ministers noticed her wrathful impatience, and desiring to rebuke the sinful manifestation, said sternly: "Mary, what do you think will be your occupation in hell?" "Pretty much the same as it is on earth," she replied; "cooking for Methodist ministers."

TOWARDS THE ROCKIES.

The Character of The New Northwest.

The Week.

One sees little life anywhere from a railway carriage, and, when the country is level, covered with a uniform net of thick grass, green or russet, according to the time of the year, the view from the window soon ceases to interest, and no one regrets that he misses 200 or 300 miles of it during the night. And we learn as little by hearing as by seeing. The information picked up by the way, chiefly in the odd minutes at stations, is not of the most reliable nature; and nowhere is it so difficult to get at the truth as in the northwest on either side of the boundary line. Of course, it is part of every man's religion that the country, and his section in particular, must be cracked up. And when you point to indifferent crops, or tell of hardships your friends have encountered, or drawbacks undeniably connected with the northwest, these are at once put down to some malign genius indifferently known as "the government," or "the syndicate," or "the banks." A man with these to fall back upon is armed all times. He has a complete Ready Reckoner, and is saved the trouble of thinking. His casual judgment is satisfied, and at the same time his patriotism and self-respect are preserved intact. Fortunately, I was not dependent for information on the only sources open to flying visitors. I had visited the country several times and spent several weeks chiefly in farmers' houses, and had learned something of the hard facts of the case. It is no use blinding our eyes to the truth that the sun of the northwest has its spots. Ten or eleven years ago I could get few to believe that there was anything good there. Two years ago few would allow that there was anything bad. We may be thankful for enormous areas of good land, vast fertile plains that shall be an inheritance for our children's children, unless we go on begging strangers—in mercy to us—to come and enter on the possession of 160 acres apiece, without necessarily fancying that it is better than Ontario or Nova Scotia. I, for one, would be very thankful for another Ontario. The northwest has many disadvantages. The one that will be felt most sorely for many a day was the "boom" of two years ago that unsettled values and demoralized the people. Floods, grasshoppers, early frosts, monopolies and chameleon land policies have been small evils compared to the drinking and gambling, the rage for speculating engendered, the laying out of imaginary town sites, and conse-

Soon, however, the sound of heavy battle was unmistakable, and half a mile from town the fugitives came in sight with appalling rapidity. He at once ordered the trains halted, and parked and stretched a brigade of his troops at Winchester across the country to stop the stragglers. Then, with an escort of twenty men, he pushed to the front. The effect of his presence was electrical. He rode in hot haste, swinging his hat, and shouting as he passed: "Face the other way, boys! Face the other way!" And hundreds of the men turned at once and followed him with cheers.

"After reaching the army he gave some hurried directions, and returned to collect the fugitives. He was in major-general's uniform, mounted on a magnificent horse, man and beast covered with dust and foam; and as he rose in his stirrups, waving his hat and his sword by turns, he cried again and again: 'If I had been here this never would have happened. We are going back. Face the other way, boys! Face the other way!' The scattered soldiers recognized their general, and took up the cry. 'Face the other way!' It passed along from one to another, rising and falling like a wave of the sea, and the men returned in crowds, falling into ranks as they came. They followed him to the front, and many who had fled, panting and panic-stricken, in the morning, under Sheridan's lead had covered themselves with the glory of heroes long before night. Such a reinforcement may one man be to an army.

"A few dispositions, and the battle began afresh. But now all was changed. The enemy advanced, it is true, but were at once repelled, and the national line, in its turn, became the assailant. Sheridan led a brigade in person, and the enemy everywhere gave way. Their officers found it impossible to rally them; a terror of the national cavalry had seized them. The captured guns were all retaken, and twenty-four pieces of artillery besides. Sixteen hundred prisoners were taken, and Early reported eighteen hundred killed and wounded. Two thousand made their way to the mountains, and for miles the line of retreat was strewn with the debris of a beaten army. Early himself escaped under cover of darkness to Newmarket. "Sheridan was made a major-general in the regular army, as he was informed, in Lincoln's own words, 'for the personal gallantry, military skill, and just confidence in the courage and gallantry of your troops, displayed by you on the 19th day of October, at Cedar Run, whereby, under the blessing of Providence, your routed army was reorganized, a great national disaster averted, and a brilliant victory achieved over the rebels for the third time in pitched battle in thirty days.'

"It was just eleven weeks since Sheridan had assumed command in the valley. In that time he had taken thirteen thousand prisoners, forty-nine battle flags, and sixty guns, besides recapturing eighteen cannon at Cedar creek. He must, besides, have killed and wounded at least nine thousand men, so that he destroyed for the enemy twenty-two thousand soldiers. 'Turning what bid fair to be disaster into glorious victory stamps Sheridan,' said Grant, 'what I have always thought him, one of the ablest of generals.'

Lincoln's Sergeant.

From the Blue and the Gray.

Jack Williams was a brave sergeant of a regiment which, undrilled and undisciplined, had joined the Army of the Potomac, just as the terrible campaign of 1864 began.

Before the army reached Petersburg, Jack commanded his company, the captain and lieutenants having been killed. His gallantry was so conspicuous that he was recommended for a captaincy in the regular army.

Ordered before an examining board at Washington, Jack presented himself dressed in a soiled, torn uniform, with bronzed face and uncut beard. The trim, dapper officers composing the board had never been under fire nor roughed it in the field, but they were posted in tactics and in the theory of war.

Though shocked at Jack's unsoldierly appearance, they asked him all sorts of questions about engineering, mathematics, ordnance and campaigns. Not a single question could Jack answer.

"What is an echelon?" asked one of the board.

"Don't know," answered Jack.

"What is an abatis?"

"Never saw one."

"A redan?"

"You fellows have got me again," replied Jack.

"Well, what is a hollow square, sir?"

"Never heard of one before; guess they don't have them down at the front, do they?"

"What would you do, sir, if you were in command of a company, and cavalry should charge on you?" asked a lispng fellow in white kids.

"Do, you fool!" thundered Jack; "I would give them Hail Columbia; that's what I'd do."

This ended the examination, and the report of questions and answers, with the adverse judgment of the board, was sent to President Lincoln.

His private secretary read the report to him, and when he came to the only answer that Jack had given, the president said:

"Stop! Read that over again."

"That's just the sort of men our army wants!" said the president, taking the report, and dipping the pen in the inkstand. On the back of the paper he wrote in a clear hand:

"Give this man a captain's commission."

A. LINCOLN.

Teaching Animals to Converse.

New York Sun.

Sir John Lubbock, the distinguished anthropologist and naturalist, sends to the London Nature a brief discussion of a subject which is full of interest and always peculiarly fascinating.

From the earliest times the speaking of birds and beasts has been the subject of fable, and every lover of a dog or a horse has mourned that only in fable was the speech between man and the brutes. Sir John Lubbock, however, seriously considers the possibility of teaching animals to converse with man. "It has occurred to me," he says, "whether some such system as that followed with deaf mutes, especially by Dr. Howes with Laura Bridgman, might not prove very instructive if adapted to the case of dogs."

Accordingly he has tried experiments with his dog. He printed in legible letters on pieces of stout cardboard such words as "food," "bone," "out." The dog was a black poodle, a breed which, by the way, is generally known to be quick at learning tricks; and Sir John Lubbock got the head master of a deaf and dumb school to assist at the experiments. They began by giving the dog food in a saucer, over which was laid the card on which was the word "food," and beside which was placed an empty saucer covered by a plain card.

"Van," the poodle, soon learned to distinguish between the two. Afterward he was taught to bring the card which expressed his wants. "This he now does," says Sir John Lubbock, "and hands it to me quite prettily, and I then give him a bone or a little food, or take him out, according to the card brought. He still brings sometimes a plain card, in which case I point out his error, and he then takes it back and changes it. That mistake, however, is not often made by Van. He has learned to distinguish between the card with the word and the blank card, no matter how often their relative positions are changed.

This is only the beginning of the very interesting experiments Sir John Lubbock proposes to make. He means to multiply the cards so that the dog may be enabled to communicate freely with him. He also expresses the wish that other owners of dogs which have displayed especial intelligence and docility, would conduct similar experiments, so that the results may be collated and compared. "I confess," he concludes, "I hope that some positive results might follow, which would enable us to obtain a more correct insight into the minds of animals than we have yet acquired."

All those familiar with dogs and who enjoy their frequent companionship, will both acknowledge that Sir John Lubbock has reason for his hope, and trust with him that the results secured will enable him to explore hitherto secret chambers of the canine intellect.

An infant is taught to communicate its desires in speech only after the expenditure of infinite pains and unwearied patience on the part of the mother. It is a very slow process, and the teaching goes on during nearly the whole of the child's waking hours. The lessons, too, are object lessons. In the case of the deaf and dumb and blind, the most marvellous results are attained by the patient teacher.

If like care and pains are spent in the way indicated by Sir John Lubbock, may we not also expect to reach results which will be surprising and of inestimable value in the investigation of animal intelligence and the mental processes of brutes? Dogs have been taught by circus men and others to do a great variety of things which show the reasoning capacity of the animals; and the stories of canine intelligence and canine susceptibilities are innumerable and wonderful. But we do not know of any previous attempt to pursue this subject after a scientific method, and for the specific scientific purpose this distinguished naturalist has in view.

At any rate there is not a more fascinating inquiry than that upon which Sir John Lubbock has entered; and it is far from absurd to hope, as a flip-pant writer in the New York Times lately implied, that man will yet have added to his pleasures the opportunity of holding converse with his dog.

Contempt of Court.

Washington Republican.

Senator Vance tells this story: When Judge Tourgee was on the bench in North Carolina an old chum of his was brought before him on some trifling charge. During the trial the prisoner said something that highly displeased his honor. "Do you mean," sternly said the judge, "to bring this court into contempt?" The prisoner smiled, and said: "Judge, you have known me for many years, and we have been friends, haven't we?" "That is a fact," said the judge. "You would do me a favor within reason even now, would you not?" "Very likely," responded his honor, all graciousness and good humor; "but what is it?" "Well," retorted the scamp, "do not press me too hard on the point of contempt this morning."

Ventilated bed clothes is one of the latest inventions of English genius. They are perforated, and permit the vapor from the body to escape.

It is related of the 13-year-old Boston school girl who died last week, as stated, of over-study, that during her delirium, she repeated page after page of history, and struggled with the notes of music, frequently crying: "Oh, mother, if I could only get these notes out of my head!"