

THE NATIONAL CAPITAL.

Both Branches of Congress on Important Business.

The Mormon Bill Thoroughly Discussed Pro and Con in the Senate.

With the Understanding that a Vote Will Be Taken this Afternoon.

The House Up to Its Neck in the Wrangle Over the Apportionment Bill.

Miscellaneous Notes of a National Character.

and the senate adjourned at 5:35 p. m.

PROCEEDINGS IN THE HOUSE. The appropriation bill came up as special order, and was opposed by Mr. Joyce, (Vermont), because it reduced New England representation; by Mr. Hewett because unconstitutional, and also by Mr. Sherwin, (Illinois). Mr. Carpenter (Iowa) opposed the bill and favored 325 for membership of the house. Mr. Williams (Wisconsin) urged that action be no longer delayed. Mr. Doering (Iowa) opposed the new method. Mr. Brumm (Pennsylvania) opposed the bill, as did also Mr. Clements (Georgia). Mr. Anderson (Kansas) favored 325 members. Mr. Spooner (Rhode Island) opposed the bill. Mr. Tillman (South Carolina) favored 600 members, claiming that the more members the less liable the lobby to control congress and would bring the various sections of this great country into closer social relations. Adjourned at 5:20 p. m.

CAPITAL NOTES.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATED PRESS. PROCEEDINGS IN THE SENATE. WASHINGTON, D. C., February 15.—Mr. Call introduced a resolution to open negotiations with Spain towards securing the repeal of the tax on cattle imported into Cuba from the United States. Mr. Call delivered a speech in support of his resolution that the terms of pensions act be repealed. The Utah polygamy bill was taken up at the conclusion of Mr. Call's address. Several important amendments and additional section providing that any man cohabiting with more than one woman shall be fined to the extent of \$300 and up to six months imprisonment, or both, at the discretion of the court, for each offense, were agreed to. Discussion ensued on section 5, authorizing the president to grant amnesty to offenders prior to the passage of the act on conditions and under such limitations as he shall deem proper. Mr. Hoar contended that congress had no power to confer such power. Mr. Edmunds said it was an intricate subject, but the section was drawn specifically and technically from English jurisprudence. Mr. Edmunds said the power for the president to grant conditional pardon had passed beyond the range of ordinary discussion. Mr. Bayard said no action of congress could enlarge or diminish the pardon; power of the president, and the section was evidently a suggestion that there was no disposition to prosecute or persecute for anything that happened in the past. After remarks by Messrs. Hoar and Garland the section was agreed to. A long debate arose on the last section, which declares all registration of election for officers of the territory vacant, and confers the power on a commission of five to canvass the vote at the election and issue certificates of election to eligible persons. Mr. Call urged the power conferred on this commission was unconstitutional, dangerous and in defiance of popular will. Mr. Edmunds said the territories of the United States were under the legislative power of the government. The section was framed so as to put the political power of Utah into the hands of persons obedient to the law, and not into the hands of heresy and polygamy who did not recognize the law; other words to terrify the territory. Mr. Bayard pointed out that a system of so-called theocracy had displaced republican principles in Utah, and it was necessary for the maintenance of those principles that the system should be displaced. That could be done by annihilating all statutory and other government of the territory. Measures are needed for the proper and wise government of Utah. The whole country fully concurred in abhorrence of the existing state of affairs in Utah, and the senate should be careful lest it strike at the safeguards of personal liberty, personal rights and republican institutions. This section provides for an anomaly of jurisprudence, of an established principle which in his judgment struck down the fundamental principle of American liberty. If there was one clause of the constitution dear to the national heart, it was that which declared no one should be deprived of life, liberty or right, without conviction by a competent tribunal. The section taking away the right of citizens to vote, was arbitrary, despotic and unconstitutional. Mr. Garriand said the provisions of the section were intended to be rough as desperate cases needed desperate remedies. He held that the provisions were as well sanctioned by the organic law and precedent as any measure ever passed by congress. Mr. Bayard said the government of Utah was a malevolent union of church and state, a theocratic government higher in the estimation of its citizens than the constitution of the United States and compelling an obedience hostile to the spirit of liberty and law. It was clearly within the province of the government to enact such laws as would terminate a doctrine so fatal to a republican government and the principles of civil and religious liberty that the government was designed to protect. He denied that the section took from a man a right not conferred by the law and which he was not capable of losing by the repeal of the law. Mr. Harris moved executive session.

Mr. Edmunds opposed on the ground that it was time that the senate should settle down to important business.

Mr. Jones (Fla) addressed the senate on the constitutional questions involved.

At 5:20 a motion was made to adjourn. No quorum voted, and after a formal discussion an understanding that a vote on the bill will be taken to-morrow evening was arrived at,

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THE BLOODY WAR IS OVER.

RICHMOND, Va., February 15.—The rumors in regard to a hostile meeting between Senators Riddleberger and Smith circulated yesterday were entirely premature, as is apparent from the following scene which occurred this morning in the senate:

Senator Smith arose from his seat and said: "Mr. President, I rise to a question of personal privilege. A difficulty occurred upon this floor yesterday between the senator from South Carolina and myself. I frankly confess that I left the house with no very kindly feelings. I have since been assured by my friends and my cooler reflection confirms their opinion that I should have been satisfied with the disclaimer that the senator made. I am now satisfied that he said all that I had a right to exact from a gentleman and I take this occasion to express my regret at the offensive language which I used."

Mr. Riddleberger said: "I will only add that I meant to say everything that would be satisfactory to the senator from Alexandria. I never meant to do less than what I deemed would satisfy him. I hope he feels as

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