

TWELFTH YEAR.

THE NATIONAL CAPITAL.

A Vast Variety of Important Events Carefully Chronicled.

The Tariff Commission Report Dissected by the House Committee.

The Congressional Library Bill Occupies the Time of the House.

Van Wyck Secures the Chairmanship of the Mississippi River Committee.

Senator Pendleton Advocates His Pet Scheme for Civil Service Reform.

A Deluge of Similar Bills Offered As Amendments Thereto.

The First Star Route Jurymen Secured and Sworn In.

THE CABINET MEETING.

The committee on pensions to-day was devoted to the consideration of the report to be made to congress by Secretary Lincoln on the subject of the river and harbor bill.

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Isaac Eichler was accepted as the first juror.

THE TRIBERS. In the Dickson case this morning, Bowen resumed the stand. He said he was a speculator in stocks and understood Dickson meant \$25,000 when he asked "How will \$25 do?" He also said that when the conversation occurred regarding the attorney general's anticipated star route speech that he (Bowen) and Dickson were on their second quart bottle of wine.

CAPITAL NOTES.

WASHINGTON, December 12.—The certificate of awards made by the Garfield board of audit was presented to the secretary of the treasury today. Warrants for the amounts allowed on individual bills will be issued as they are paid for by the treasury on Thursday or Friday this week. Two claims presented by messengers in the war department were referred to day. They were each for \$50 for sitting up two nights during the president's illness at the rate of \$25 per night.

RESIGNED BY REQUEST.

Captain Hanson H. Crowe, Fourth cavalry, resigned at the request of the secretary of war.

SENATOR BECK'S BILL.

prohibiting political contributions by government employes makes violation of its provisions a misdemeanor, and disqualifies the violators from holding office thereafter.

THE CABINET MEETING.

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TWO-CENT STAMPS.

It is understood that the Marquis of Lorne requested a military escort on the proposed trip to Texas. Secretary Lincoln says he has heard nothing of it. One of General Sherman's staff, however, has been detailed to furnish the necessary escort to the marquis.

ANTI-MONOPOLY ADDRESS.

The national federation of labor unions adopted an address to trade unions and labor organizations of the United States, congratulating the workmen of the United States that the greatest power conferred on any body of civilized men, the law making power of fifty million freemen, has voluntarily stepped forward to arbitrate between the poor and rich in the unequal contest which has been so long going on between thoroughly organized capitalists and poorly organized laborers.

IMPORTANT COMMITTEE NEWS.

The president of the senate will soon designate Senator Mitchell chairman of the committee on pensions. Senator Platt will continue chairman of the committee on patents. Senator Van Wyck will be designated chairman of the Mississippi river improvement committee, instead of Senator Mitchell, all of which is entirely agreeable to the gentlemen concerned.

INDIAN VISITORS.

A small band of Chippewa Indians arrived to-day from Turtle Mountain country, Northern Dakota. They came without the consent of the Indian office, and to protest against the opening to settlers of a large area of country to the north and west of Devil's Lake, as contemplated by a recent order of Secretary Teller, who holds these Indians have no title whatever to the country. He finds that in all published accounts of the northwest territory, even in the writings of Jesuit missionaries, two or three hundred years ago, the country is referred to as belonging to the Sioux. The visitors had an interview with the commissioner of Indian affairs to-day. Bishop Whipple is understood to favor the claims of the Indians.

CONGRESSIONAL.

WASHINGTON, December 12.—On the motion of Senator Hoar a resolution was adopted directing the postmaster-general to transmit as soon as possible the last report on the administration of the postoffice in New York city; also a resolution directing the secretary of the treasury to transmit the report of Edward O. Grimes on the administration of the custom house, naval office and surveyor's office in New York.

At the close of the morning hour Senator Beck proposed to call up his resolution for investigation of political assessments, but in the absence of Senator Edmunds, who made a motion to refer the resolution to the committee on judiciary, agreed it should be laid aside temporarily. The senate then proceeded to consider bills on the calendar.

Bills introduced: By Senator Miller, (Cal.), a bill for payment of certain Indian war bonds in California. Referred.

By Senator Beck, to prohibit officers and employes of the United States from contributing money for political purposes. Referred.

Senator Vest offered a resolution, which was agreed to, instructing the committee on territories to inquire and report what legislation is necessary to protect public property and preserve game there, also whether the area of the park should be extended, and if so, to what extent.

Senator Cameron (Pa.) presented petitions in favor of the increase of soldiers to one-armed and one-legged soldiers.

The senate then took up Senator Pendleton's civil service measure. Senator Pendleton said the question of civil service had been submitted to the people in the recent election, and they had spoken in no low or uncertain tone. The expenditures of the government for this fiscal year was \$402,000,000, nearly \$9 a head for every man, woman and child in the United States, more money probably than was appropriated during the first forty years for the expenses of administration by the republicans that made it possible for the democrats and other citizens who prized their country higher than their party to elect a democratic state ticket in Ohio, and sixteen of the twenty-one members of congress. He said sixteen, because although only thirteen of them had received their certificates, the other three would certainly be seated by the next house if the certificates were not given them. Meaning civil service had welded the whole of its employes into a great political machine, an army whose efforts had, at least twice within a short period of our history, robbed the people of the fair results of the presidential election. The underlying idea of the bill was that offices in government are trusts for the people; that the performance of the duties in the interest of the people; that there is no excuse for the existence of an office or payment of a salary except necessary for the welfare of the people; that every superfluous office should be cut off and every incompetent office holder dismissed; that the employment of two where one will suffice is robbery, and that if the salary of forced contributions from two to ten per cent, they are too high and ought to be reduced. The bill was designed as a method of applying to candidates for public employment Jeffersonian tests—fidelity, honesty, capacity. It dealt only with the departments in Washington and custom houses and other public offices employing more than fifty persons. The number of such offices did not exceed 35, and the whole number of employes to whom the bill would apply would not be more than 10,000. The bill did not touch at all the question of removals. Some persons were disposed to wait until after the next presidential election before passing a bill to reform the civil service, in the hope that the change of administration would give a fair share of offices to the democrats, but the democratic party might not elect the next President, and he believed it would not unless its representatives in Congress did two things. First—respond to the demands of the people made upon the party in a condition of probation; second—disarm the great body of officials who, as a great disciplined army go forth to prevent and control the elections.

In conclusion, Senator Pendleton said he believed the passage of the measure would hasten the day of democratic triumph.

Amendments were offered to the bill, and ordered as follows: By Senator Sargent, as an additional section, the bill introduced last summer, prohibiting solicitation of contributions by government officers or employees, and punishing it by a fine not exceeding \$500 and by discharge from office.

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