

The motion to print five hundred additional copies of the internal tax bill was accordingly referred, under the law, to the Committee on Printing.

Mr. GARFIELD. The committee can be prepared to report on that matter to-morrow morning.

The SPEAKER. It is possible that at twelve o'clock to-morrow, when the House meets, our presence may be desired at the bar of the Senate. That would, perhaps, prevent action at that time upon this resolution.

Mr. JULIAN. I desire to inquire whether any business will be done to-day after we come out of Committee of the Whole?

The SPEAKER. No business will be transacted, unless the Committee on Printing shall be ready to report upon the resolution to print five hundred additional copies of the internal tax bill in pamphlet form.

LAW DEPARTMENT.

Mr. LAWRENCE, of Ohio, by unanimous consent, reported back from the Committee on the Judiciary House bill No. 765, to establish a law department, together with a substitute; which substitute was ordered to be printed, and with the bill was recommitted to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. HOLMAN moved to reconsider the vote by which the bill was recommitted; and also moved that the motion to reconsider be laid on the table.

The latter-motion was agreed to.

IRON-CLADS ONEOTA AND CATAWBA.

Mr. BENJAMIN, by unanimous consent, submitted the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Navy be directed to communicate to this House copies of all correspondence that has taken place between the Navy Department and any other parties in relation to the sale of the iron-clads Oneota and Catawba.

Mr. ROBINSON. Will not the gentleman modify the resolution so as to include also an inquiry with regard to the sale of the Illinois?

Mr. WASHBURN, of Illinois. That inquiry would more properly be addressed to the Secretary of War.

Mr. ROBINSON. In view of the suggestion of the gentleman from Illinois, I will not insist on the modification.

Mr. CHANLÉL. I would like to know what is the object of the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. BENJAMIN] in offering the resolution?

Mr. BENJAMIN. The Committee on Retrenchment has been charged with the investigation of the sale of these iron-clads. Some correspondence on the subject has been had between certain parties and the Navy Department. We want to get that correspondence. This resolution is offered for that purpose at the instance of the Committee on Retrenchment.

The resolution was adopted.

TRADE WITH BRITISH PROVINCES, ETC.

Mr. INGERSOLL. I ask unanimous consent to submit the following resolution for reference to the Committee on Printing:

Resolved, That forty-five hundred extra copies of the letters of the Secretary of the Treasury, dated March 30 (Ex. Doc. No. 249) and May 14, 1863, together with the reports of Mr. George W. Brega upon trade with the British Provinces of North America, therewith transmitted, be printed for the use of the House, and five hundred for the use of the Treasury Department.

Mr. WASHBURN, of Illinois. I think this resolution ought not to pass, but I will not object to its reference to the Committee on Printing.

There being no objection, the resolution was referred, under the law, to the Committee on Printing.

HARRIS STEAM ENGINE COMPANY.

Mr. INGERSOLL, by unanimous consent, introduced a bill (H. R. No. 1074) to incorporate the Harris Steam Engine Company of the District of Columbia; which was read a first and second time, and referred to the Committee for the District of Columbia.

IMPROVEMENT OF CAPITOL GROUNDS.

Mr. ELA, by unanimous consent, submitted

the following resolution; which was read, considered, and agreed to:

Resolved, That the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds be instructed to inquire whether any further appropriation is necessary to cause the removal of the half dozen loads of rubbish which have lain for the last fifteen months about the west front of the Capitol, and to complete the grading now suspended, requiring about twenty days' labor.

PRINTING OF INTERNAL TAX BILL.

Mr. LAFLIN, from the Committee on Printing, reported the following resolution; which was read, considered, and agreed to:

Resolved, That there be printed in pamphlet form five hundred copies of the bill "to reduce into one act and to amend the laws relating to internal taxes," reported from the Committee of Ways and Means, for the use of the committee.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

Mr. McCARTHY asked and obtained indefinite leave of absence after to-day.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

Mr. WASHBURN, of Illinois, moved that the rules be suspended and that the House resolve itself into the Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union.

The motion was agreed to.

The House accordingly resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, (Mr. LAWRENCE, of Ohio, in the chair.)

FINANCIAL POLICY OF THE COUNTRY.

Mr. GARFIELD. Mr. Chairman, I am aware that financial subjects are dull and uninviting in comparison with those heroic themes which have absorbed the attention of Congress for the last five years. To turn from the consideration of armies and navies, victories and defeats, to the long array of figures which exhibit the debt, expenditure, taxation, and industry of the nation, requires no little courage and self-denial; but to those questions we must come, and to their solution Congresses, political parties, and all thoughtful citizens must give their best efforts for many years to come. Our public debt, the greatest financial fact of this century, stands in the pathway of all political parties and, like the Egyptian Sphinx, propounds its riddles. All the questions which spring out of the public debt, such as loans, bonds, tariffs, internal taxation, banking, and currency, present greater difficulties than usually come within the scope of American politics. They cannot be settled by force of numbers nor carried by assault, as an army storms the works of an enemy. Patient examination of facts, careful study of principles which do not always appear on the surface, and which involve the most difficult problems of political economy, are the weapons of this warfare. No sentiment of national pride should make us unmindful of the fact that we have less experience in this direction than any other civilized nation. If this fact is not creditable to our intellectual reputation, it at least affords a proof that our people have not hitherto been crushed under the burdens of taxation. We must consent to be instructed by the experience of other nations, and be willing to approach these questions, not with the dogmatism of teachers, but as seekers after truth.

It is evident, that both in Congress and among the people, there is great diversity of opinion on all these themes. He is indeed a bold man who, at this time, claims to have mastered any one of them, or reached conclusions on all its features satisfactory even to himself. For myself, I claim only to have studied earnestly to know what the best interests of the country demand at the hands of Congress. I have listened with great respect to the opinions of those with whom I differ most, and only ask for myself what I award to all others, a patient hearing.

THE HARD TIMES.

The past six months have been remarkable for unparalleled distress in the commercial and industrial interests of half the civilized world. In Great Britain, the distress among the laboring classes is more terrible than the people of those islands have suffered for a

quarter of a century. From every city, town, and village in the kingdom, the cry of distress comes up through every issue of the press. The London Times of December 11, says:

"Last winter the demands on the public were unprecedented. The amount of money given to the poor of London beyond that disbursed in legal relief of the poor, was almost incredible. It seemed the demand had reached its highest point, but if we are not mistaken the exigencies of the present season will surpass those of any former year in British history."

The London Star, of a still later date, says:

"Men and women die in our streets every day of starvation. Whole districts are sinking into one vast, squalid, awful condition of helpless, hopeless destitution."

From many parts of continental Europe there comes a similar cry. A few weeks since the Secretary of State laid before this body a letter from the American minister at Copenhagen, appealing to this country for contributions for the relief of the suffering poor of Sweden and Norway. A late Berlin paper says "business is at a stand-still, and privation and suffering are everywhere seen." The inhabitants of eastern Prussia are appealing to the German citizens of the United States for immediate relief. In Russia the horrors of pestilence are added to the sufferings of famine. In Finland the peasants are dying of starvation by hundreds. In some parts of France and Spain the scarcity is very great. In northern Africa the suffering is still greater. In Algiers the deaths by starvation are so numerous that the victims are buried in trenches like the slain on the battle-field. In Tunis eight thousand have thus perished in two months. The United States consul at that place writes that on the 27th day of December two hundred people starved to death in the streets of that city, and the average daily deaths from that cause exceed one hundred. Our sadness at the contemplation of this picture is mingled with indignation, when we reflect that at the present moment, in the eight principal nations of Europe, there are three million men under arms at an annual cost of nearly a thousand million dollars, an expense which, in twenty years, would pay every national debt in Christendom; and this only the peace establishment! While Napoleon is feeding fifty thousand starving Frenchmen daily from the soup-kitchens of the imperial palace he is compelling the French Legislature to double his army. Whatever distress our people may be suffering, they have reason to be thankful that the bloody monster called the "balance of power" has never cast its shadow upon our country. We have reason, indeed, to be thankful that our people are suffering less than the people of any other nation. But the distress here is unusual for us. It is seen in the depression of business, the stagnation of trade, the high price of provisions, and the great difficulty which laboring men encounter in finding employment. It is said that during the past winter seventy-five thousand laborers of New York city have been unable to find employment. The whole industry of the States lately in rebellion is paralyzed, and in many localities the cry of hunger is heard. It is the imperative duty of Congress to ascertain the cause of this derangement of our industrial forces, and apply whatever remedy legislation can afford. The field is a broad one, the subject is many-sided; but our first step should be to ascertain the facts of our situation.

I shall direct my remarks on this occasion to but one feature of our legislation. I propose to discuss the currency and its relation to the revenue and business prosperity of the country.

OUR INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION.

In April, 1861, there began in this country an industrial revolution, not yet completed, of gigantic in its proportions and as far reaching in its consequences as the political and military revolution through which we have passed. As the first step to any intelligent discussion of the currency it is necessary to examine the character and progress of that industrial revolution.

The year 1860 was one of remarkable prog-