

WASHINGTON, April 16.

Abolition of Slavery in the District—Commissioners of Compensation—City Passenger Railway—Amendments to the House Bill—Resident Corporators—Books of Subscription—Election of Directors—Routes—Important Omission—Treasury Notes—Sudden Death of a Soldier—Death of Judge Neale. &c.

The appointment of the commissioners to determine the amount to be allowed for each slave, and make awards, under the act abolishing slavery in this District, will be a matter of considerable interest here. The President makes these appointments, and it is understood that ex-Mayor Berret is likely to be one of them. In the meantime, this day, all colored people in the District are free, and their late owners are required within twenty days (unless allowed further time at the discretion of the commissioners) to furnish a description of each slave, so that a certificate of "freedom" may be issued—and are allowed ninety days within which to file their claims, proofs, &c., on which to base their claim for compensation under the bill. As the slaves are to be paid for at an average cost to the government not exceeding \$300, out of a round sum of \$1,000,000 appropriated by the bill, it may require a considerable period in which to ascertain and determine the awards. The whole slave population must be gone over before results can be arrived at. The fact, however, that the number of slaves in the District has been recently much reduced by owners removing them hence in anticipation of the passage of the bill, will render the labor and delay less than they otherwise would have been.

The pending bill in Congress to incorporate the Washington and Georgetown Railway Company has undergone various changes between the two Houses, but it is probably in such shape now (as reported back from the committee of the District in the Senate yesterday) as may ensure its final passage. The Senate long ago passed the bill in a form generally satisfactory to the community here, naming mostly resident citizens as corporators, and guarding also the general and local interests involved. The House, however, greatly changed the bill, passing it with other corporators from abroad, in lieu of those (with one exception) originally named. In the bill as reported back now to the Senate, while these non-resident names are retained, others are added of residents, in due proportion, so as to make the corporators as follows: Horace M. Dewey, Richard Wallach, Jansen Hasbrouck, Wm. A. Darling, Thomas Berry, Joseph F. Brown, Wm. Rensen, Jonathan H. Butler, John B. Proctor, John Butterfield, Joseph T. Stevens, Wm. Clavin, Samuel J. Reeves, John L. Brown, J. J. Coombs, J. Henry Paleston, Edward Williams, William Osborne, Edward Clark, Cornelius S. Bushnell, Zenas C. Robbins, Elish. Klagman, Sayles J. Bowen, Gilbert Vanderwerken and Wm. H. Tenney, Edward A. Abbot, and their associates and assigns.

The bill as reported back also prevents the corporation from being a "close" one, as was allowed by the House, in making no provision for the election of directors. It now provides that after the books of subscription, which are to be opened within five days, and so remain for at least five days—shall have been closed, there shall be called a first meeting of the stockholders for the choice of directors, each share entitling the holder to one vote, an annual election to take place thereafter. The subscribers, too, are to make oath that their subscriptions are bona fide, each for him or herself. A clause, inserted by the House, "that the privileges hereby granted shall continue until repealed by Congress," it is also proposed to strike out. The routes are the same as heretofore prescribed, with the exception that the track around the capitol grounds to the navy-yard is to be by way of their southern boundary, instead of the northern, and with a lateral road therefrom along the east front of the capitol, and thence to the Baltimore depot, and thence again through First street west to Pennsylvania avenue to intersect the main road. The branch road along Seventh st. west is to extend from the boundary to the Potomac, and that along Fourteenth street west and New York avenue to Pennsylvania avenue, intersecting.

By an accident, it is to be presumed, there is an omission at the end of the section prescribing the time in which the roads shall be completed of the words, "this act shall be null and void." The section is as follows:

Sec. 21. That unless said corporation shall make and complete their said railways between the capitol and Georgetown within sixty working days from an after the approval of this act, and from the capitol to the navy-yard within sixty days thereafter, and on said Seventh street within six months from the passage hereof, and from said Rhode Island avenue to the point of intersection as aforesaid within one year from the approval of this act, [this act shall be null and void.]

The words in brackets, which I add, not only complete the sentence, but are in conformity with what is understood to be the intention of the Senate.

The petition from New York, presented in Congress to-day, against the tax bill, and in favor of treasury note issues instead, assumed that the same promises to pay must be made by a government having a large debt, and that it makes little difference in principle whether they are written on large pieces of paper in the shape of bonds, bearing interest, or small pieces of paper in the similitude of bank notes; that large bonds are more to the benefit of stockjobbers and rich men, and small notes can be taken by the poor and laboring classes.

Last night a soldier of the Ninety-first Pennsylvania Regiment was found lying dead near the office of Provost & Winter, opposite the south gate of the capitol. His head was fractured, and foul play was thought of in the case, but as he lay near a large iron cog-wheel on which was blood and hair, and as twenty dollars remained in his pocket undisturbed, the conclusion was that the unfortunate soldier had come to his death by an accidental fall.

A youth named Lewis Bladen, who was shot in the country on Sunday last, near Rock Creek Church, by another boy named Alfred Turner, lies in a dangerous condition. Turner has been arrested and committed to jail, though at first it was thought he had not been aware that the gun which he fired was loaded.

Mr. P. Cagan, who was robbed a few nights ago of \$1,500, has caused his clerk, a youth, to be arrested, upon the charge of being a participant in the crime. He has been sent to jail for a further hearing.

Christopher Neale, Esq., formerly Judge of the Orphans' Court of Alexandria, died there yesterday. Judge Neale was a native of Prince William county, Va., but settled in Alexandria in early life, and was much respected.

Ex-Governor Hicks, of Maryland, is here at Willard's—also Carl Shurz, of Wisconsin, late Minister to Spain, and just appointed and confirmed a brigadier general. Senator John S. Carlile has just returned from a short visit to his home in Western Virginia.

The oath proposed by the bill for voters in this city, who are suspected of disloyalty, not only requires support of the constitution and government, but the further declaration "that I always have been loyal and true to the government of the United States."

U.S.A.