

Congress.

IN SENATE OF THE U. STATES

January 28, 1866.
Mr. Logan, from the committee appointed to consider the bill, to suspend the commercial intercourse between the U. States, and certain parts of the island of St. Domingo, reported the bill amended as follows:

A BILL,

To suspend the commercial intercourse between the United States, and certain parts of the island of St. Domingo.

Be it enacted, by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That all commercial intercourse between any person or persons resident within the U. States, and any person or persons resident within any part of the island of St. Domingo, not in possession, and under the acknowledged government of France shall be, and from and after due notice of this act at the custom houses respectively, is hereby prohibited: And any ship or vessel, owned, hired, or employed, wholly or in part, by any person or persons resident within the U. States, or by any citizen or citizens thereof, resident elsewhere, and sailing from any port of the U. States, after that time, or from any other port in America, after the day of next; or from any other port whatever, after the day of next; which, contrary to the intent hereof, shall be voluntarily carried; or shall be destined to proceed, whether directly, or from any intermediate port or place, to any port or place within the island of St. Domingo, and not in possession, and under the acknowledged government of France; and also any cargo which shall be found on board of such ship or vessel, when detected and interrupted in such unlawful purpose, or at her return from such voyage to the United States, shall be wholly forfeited, and may be seized & condemned in any court of the U. States.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That after due notice of this act, at the several custom houses, no ship or vessel whatever shall receive a clearance for any port or place within the island of St. Domingo, and not in the actual possession of France: nor shall any clearance be granted for a foreign voyage to any ship or vessel owned, hired, or employed, wholly or in part by any person or persons, resident in the United States, or by any citizen or citizens thereof resident elsewhere, until the owner or the employer for the voyage, or his factor or agent, with the master, & one or more sufficient surety or sureties, to the satisfaction of the collector of the district, shall give bond to the United States, such owner, employer, or factor, with the master, in a sum equal to the value of the vessel & her cargo; and such surety or sureties in a sum equal to the value of the vessel & of one third of her cargo, when it shall not exceed ten thousand dollars; and if it shall exceed, then in that sum, with condition that the ship or vessel, for which a clearance shall be required, is actually destined, and shall proceed to some port or place without the limits of such part of the island of St. Domingo, as shall not be in the actual possession, and under the acknowledged government of France, and during the intended voyage shall not be voluntarily carried, or permitted to proceed, whether directly, or from any intermediate port or place, to any port or place within such part of the island of St. Domingo, as shall not be in the actual possession, and under the acknowledged government of France.

Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, That all penalties and forfeitures incurred by force of this act, and which may be recovered, shall be distributed and accounted for, in the manner prescribed by the act, entitled, "An act to regulate the collection of duties on imports and tonnage," and may be mitigated or remitted in the manner prescribed by the act, entitled, "An act to provide for mitigating, or remitting the forfeitures, penalties, and disabilities, accruing in certain cases therein mentioned."

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

January 23.

DEFENCE OF OUR PORTS AND HARBORS.

(Continued from our last.)

Mr. JACKSON. I hope the committee will not rise until they have further investigated the resolution under consideration, and I think the reason assigned by the gentleman from Georgia will on consideration, be deemed by himself, an argument against the motion. It is said that we do not now possess sufficient detailed information; but it is not necessary now to have that detailed information which it may be necessary to have when this business assumes the shape of a bill. We are now engaged in fixing the principle; the details of which will follow afterwards. The interests of the nation call aloud to us to attend to this subject. The cries of our impressed seamen join in the general

clamor, our commerce, subject to lawless condemnation under admiralty decisions, calls aloud for our attention. If in high time that the representatives of the nation should deliberate on the subject. Let us then set from day to day, until we should unite in effectual measures of redress. Let us no longer be indifferent or inattentive to a subject more important than any other that can come before us. Let us evince that unanimity which shall ensure success to whatever we propose. Shall we at such a crisis, be creeping on behind the public sentiment, and looking with indifference on scenes which can no longer be submitted to, unless we resign the independence we have acquired? It is not necessary, at present to go into details. It is only necessary to say whether we will protect our harbors, erect gun boats, and build vessels to protect our commerce on the seas, and not only to repel aggressions, but to chastise those who offer them. I hope there will be found to be but one sentiment in the House, as there is in the nation, and that we will expend the last cent before we submit to the degradations offered to us. I entreat the committee not to rise until they have fully deliberated on the subject, and have formed an effectual plan for obtaining redress.

Mr. DANA. Seven weeks have elapsed since the president addressed congress, respecting the aggression made upon the rights of our citizens. During these seven weeks, congress have not informed the nation of anything they have done; nor have they announced that any one thing will be done for the effectual maintenance of the violated rights of their citizens. Now, in considering this resolution, we are called on to decide on the first point mentioned in the message; not on a mere effect to be produced by paper: the authorising a detachment of 100,000 militia; but on a real and substantial defence against foreign powers. On viewing the message of the President, it will be seen that we have embarrassments with all the principal powers of Europe; that we are beset with difficulties on every side. Our ports are insulted, our territory invaded, and our seamen impressed. With regard to the whole of these, the message affords us no reason to expect a speedy adjustment; and since the delivery of the message, we have received nothing which justifies a reasonable expectation of it.

Mr. NELSON. It is true, sir, that we have been seven weeks in session, and that we have not decided on any great national question. But if we had been in session seventy-seven weeks, and were unprepared, I should vote against coming to a decision on any question, however important. Is it a reason, because we have been seven weeks in session, without acting upon this subject, that we should now decide blindly on a question of more importance than any which, for a considerable time past, has presented itself for our consideration? Shall we do it merely to gratify a few gentlemen, who are for hurrying us into the adoption of precipitate measures. It is a piece of respect due from one gentleman to another, who is not prepared to vote understandingly on any subject, to indulge him with a moderate allowance of time. One gentleman has stated that the secretary of war made certain communications to the committee. If he possesses any useful knowledge on the subject, I should wish it communicated directly to the House, and printed; that every gentleman may stand on equal ground. I will ask how many ports and harbors it is necessary to protect? Where they lie? How many men it will take to fortify them, and the number of guns necessary for them? Have we any information on these points? Is any gentleman on this floor ready to say he possesses it? Perhaps the secretary at war is acquainted with all these details. It is his duty to possess them, and no doubt he does possess them. But I should be glad to have them laid before the legislature. It is not necessary for me at this time to give an opinion on the proposed measure. It will depend on the information I shall receive whether I shall approve of the expenditure of a dollar. My vote will depend on this—Are the people prepared to expend millions, to guard against that which may be but an imaginary evil? Is our treasury in such a situation, as to authorize our appropriating millions for the protection of harbors whose situation we know not? I wish to see the estimates. If the thing can be effected by the expenditure of a moderate sum, I may agree to it; but if the sum required shall be so enormous as not only to eat up our existing revenue, but to require new burthens, I will not vote for a dollar. We know that the House has already appropriated a considerable sum; more than it will probably have at its disposal; and that they have refused to continue a certain tax. I will ask—

Mr. MACON (Speaker) was sorry to interrupt the gentleman, but he would submit whether, in the remarks he had just made, he was in order.

Mr. NELSON. I apprehend that in the remarks which I have just made, I have not yet been out of order. If the committee, or the Chairman say so, I will stand corrected.

The Chairman. The gentleman will proceed.

Mr. NELSON. I say that it is incumbent on us, if we consider ourselves as the true representatives of the people, before we lay an enormous tax on them, to be sure that it will be of some use. Suppose we appropriate now five millions to the pro-

tection of our harbors, and shall be told, after these are expended, that ten millions more are necessary to complete their protection. Are the people of the U. S. in a situation to pay fifteen millions for this purpose? With the gentleman from Georgia, I am for having correct information before I take a step in this business. If a sum not burthensome to the people will do, I may vote for it; but if the sum necessary shall be so enormous as to subject them to a heavy burthen, I will not vote a dollar. The gentleman from Connecticut has brought forward a powerful argument, by asking us if we will not do that which the President recommends to us? How long the honorable gentleman has felt this respect for the President, I know not; but for myself I answer, I would not vote for what I thought wrong, though recommended by the President. If the President should recommend what I think a burthen on the people, I should hold up both my hands against it, and his recommendation would be no inducement with me to favor it. So far as I think his recommendation accords with the good of the community, I am for supporting it. When I think it injurious I must vote against it. I hope the committee will rise; and I appeal to the candor of gentlemen, whether it is not right and friendly to allow some little time to those who declare themselves uninformed on the subject.

Mr. SMITH. I am well pleased the subject has been thus brought before the committee, as it affords the first opportunity we have had of knowing the opinions of each other on it. I am of opinion that our time will not be ill spent, in proceeding further in this discussion, although I shall ultimately be in favor of the committee's rising. Gentlemen were not correct when they told us, that although we had set seven weeks, we had done nothing with regard to the differences of the United States with foreign nations. I believe we have done something, and I trust that it will prove effectual. There is one strong reason on my mind why we should not decide now on the subject before us. This relates to the ground on which we may decide this question. I mean a subject not yet brought forward, (the conduct of Britain) in relation to which it was my wish to have made a motion before we entered on the business now under consideration. From the issue of that business, we may be able to decide what will be necessary in this. If it shall be thought necessary to go to war, one system of measures will be necessary. If it shall be determined to pursue a different course, a different system will be required. Our minds must remain in a doubtful state until this decision is made. The subject now before us regards principally one nation. What do we complain of? A violation of our neutral rights. And yet that subject is not at present before us. If on that subject we are determined to pursue peaceable measures our course will be very different from that which would follow from our assuming a warlike attitude. In my opinion it is best that the committee should rise, and this business be suspended till we shall decide on the ground we mean to take with that nation. I will go farther and say, that it is not my opinion that we are in that unhappy state that will oblige us to go to war with her, and if this shall appear to be the opinion of a majority of the house, it may save us from a great expenditure on the object now under consideration.

Mr. MACON. I agree with the gentleman from Georgia in the propriety of the committee's rising. We are called upon for 150,000 dollars and for other sums. In requiring time for information, the gentleman demands nothing which I think unfair, or that can prove injurious. Were I satisfied myself with the report, on so important a question I would not refuse time to others to satisfy themselves. Do gentlemen mean to make others give votes before they are prepared? Is it proper thus to spend the money of the nation? With regard to the expense of a 74 gun ship, we are furnished on that subject with an estimate. So, with regard to the expense of fortifying our ports and harbors, may not the secretary of war give a similar estimate? It would not, if it is true, be binding upon us, but it would be the information of a man whose duty it is to be well informed on the subject, and who I believe to be well informed. Let him give us this information, and we shall then be well enough informed to judge for ourselves. Let us see the whole length of the route before we begin the journey; before we undertake it let us be satisfied we can perform it. In this way we shall take the most direct course; and the business will be sooner done than by voting on it at present. The committee have given us an estimate of the expense of building a 74. On this subject there is a difference of opinion—so also is there with regard to the defending the port of New York. On this point the head of the war department may be able to decide. He probably may have had an examination made into the possibility of defending it. He may possibly be of opinion, that it may be defended by fortifications supported by a naval armament. Before, however, we take any steps, I hope we shall get all the information we can. I have seen such a crisis as this before; and if the statute books be consulted, it will be found that at least seven weeks were then suffered to elapse before any thing material was done. I am not of opinion that it is sound policy

to pass laws as fast as we can. On the contrary, I believe the less legislation the better. As to the recommendation of the President, I agree with the gentleman from Maryland. I am not sent here to obey his mandates, or to carry into effect what he recommends; but to obey the judgment which God gave me, and that I shall do whoever is president. Is the 150,000 dollars contemplated only as an entering wedge into this business? The same thing was attempted once before; but, then, to use an appropriate expression, the thing would not maul. I hope the committee will rise, and the subject be recommitted. I hope the select committee who brought in this resolution will agree to this course. They have had a full communication with the secretary of war on it. If they are satisfied, charity and good neighborhood should induce them to allow the same privilege to others; particularly as it is agreed that this subject is of more importance, and may interest the people in a higher degree, than any other which can come before the house this session.

Mr. DAWSON. An appeal is made to our candor, which I am sorry I am unable to comply with, and which it seems to me, the gentleman who has just spoken, has but little reason to make. Every gentleman of the house will recollect that on the first topic of the message, the honorable gentleman declared that he was not for doing any thing, and yet he now calls for information. I do presume that this information can have no influence on his mind. To what, then, are we to ascribe his desire for it, but from his wish that nothing may be done?

The gentleman from Maryland (Mr. Nelson) says that if the sum required for the defence of our ports and harbors will be enormous, he shall be against it, but if otherwise, he may be in favor of it. That gentleman will see in the resolution that the sum contemplated to be expended is only 150,000 dollars and that therefore, it can operate no additional burthen on the people. These words, indeed, sound very well; gentlemen may talk of burthens imposed on the people, but they know that this measure cannot produce any new burthens.

Mr. MACON. When I was up before, I explicitly said that I should confine myself to the question under debate. I have no objection to say that I am against the resolution; not meaning, however, to say, that facts which may be at present unknown to me, may not induce me hereafter to alter my opinion; but I confined myself to the resolution under consideration.

The Chairman remarked that gentlemen must confine themselves to the question before them.

Mr. N. WILLIAMS. Having been on the committee who brought in the report, and obtained satisfactory information myself, I should be very sorry to deny the same information to others. Indeed, the turn of the discussion seems to require more information. As, I before said, the committee did not go into an extensive view of the subject. They thought it only necessary at present to provide for the repair of decayed fortifications, and the fitting up some additional guns. The sum reported was not with a view to erect new fortifications. This every one will perceive to be unattainable by so small an appropriation, when he considers the numerous ports and harbors in the United States.

Mr. G. W. CAMPBELL. I would not trouble the committee with a single word were it not for the impression attempted to be produced, that those who call for information wish to do nothing. I hope that the members of this committee who differ from other members as to proper measures to be pursued, will not therefore be considered less friendly to maintaining our rights, or as less ready to protect them. I hope that merely because seven weeks have elapsed, without adopting any effectual measures, we shall not be considered as hostile to their adoption. I believe with some gentlemen who have already expressed their sentiments, that we have not sufficient information to act upon. The only question is, whether we shall appropriate a sum of money for the protection of our ports and harbors. It is not whether we shall protect them, as that is already provided for by law. By an act passed in the year 1794, the President is authorized to protect certain specified harbors. Before I make an appropriation, I wish to know what has been done under this law; and to know the opinions of well informed persons as to its effect. If, on correct information it appears, that they can be protected by the appropriation of a reasonable sum, I have no objection to grant it; but I am not prepared to say 150,000 dollars will answer any reasonable purpose.

Mr. COOK. Although I am in favor of the resolution, yet I am also in favor of the committee rising, as I believe the information we shall receive, will unite every member of the House in favor of it. Mr. SMITH said he just rose to explain some remarks which had fallen from him, that had been misundersood. When he alluded to a particular business, he had reference to nothing of a secret nature. Sometime since a business (relative to the invasion of neutral rights, by British Cruisers) was referred to the committee of Ways and Means, which ought, in his opinion, never to have been referred to that committee. It involved a great national question, which was properly the pri-

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Corrected Price Current.

Per.	D. C.	D. C.
per 100	4 50	3 25
per 100	6 25	6 50
No. 1	13 50	14
No. 2	10 50	11
lb.	16	18
15	20	22
10	17	19
22	22	24
18	19	21
55	60	65
12	16	18
10	12	14
4 50	5	6
10	12	14
5	8	10
7 50	8	10
7	7 50	8
1 50	2 50	3
75	1 25	1 50
75	1	1 25
50	4	5
1 50	4	5
bush.	1	1 25
cask	13	14
fine, new	7 50	8
5	6 50	7
5	5	6
lb.	30	35
60	60	70
(Virr.)	1 45	1 50
(Md.)	1 50	1 62
75	none	80
80	1	80
8 50	9	10
37	40	45
8	10	11
10	11	12
20	21	22
20	22	24
40	45	50
42	45	50
4 50	5	6
2 50	2 75	3
3	3	3 50
1 75	2	2 25
2 50	3	3 50
3	3	3 50
25	25	30
20	25	30
20	25	30
2 50	3	3 50
13	15 50	17
18	19	20
17 50	18	19
18	19	20
16	17	18
15	16	17
12	13	14
1 25	1 50	1 75
5	6	7
10	12	14
9	10	11
17	18	19
30	33	36
20	22	24
25	28	31
70	75	80
60	65	70
70	75	80
95	100	105
20	23	26
42	45	48
16	17	18
12	13	14
13 50	14 50	15 50
12 50	13 50	14 50
12 50	13 50	14 50
10	11 50	12 50
12 50	13 50	14 50
23	25	27
20	21	22
14	15	16
9	10	11
4 50	5 50	6 50
4 25	5	5 50
6 50	7	7 50
5	5 50	6
3	4	4 50
6 50	7	7 50
40	45	50
50	55	60

of fine and colory are 2 dol-
and Eastern Shore one dol-

of Stocks—This Week.

103 1/2	104
93 1/2	94
58 1/2	59
97 1/2	98
none	