

CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Monday, Dec. 24.

After the usual routine of introductory business had been gone through with, a great number of petitions were presented from various parts of the Union, and referred to the appropriate committees.

Among them were petitions presented by Messrs. C. B. Eddy and Sawyer, from sundry inhabitants in the respective States of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and North Carolina, praying for the establishment of a uniform system of bankruptcy, which were respectively referred to a committee of the whole when on that subject.

Mr. Ross presented a memorial from sundry inhabitants of the State of Ohio, praying for increasing the public trading establishments with the Indians, and for the adoption of measures to prevent the trading with them by individuals.

Mr. S. Smith, from the committee of ways and means, reported a bill for making a partial appropriation for the military service of the U. States, for the year 1822, which was twice read and committed.

On motion of Mr. Hendricks, it was Resolved, That the committee on the public lands be instructed to inquire into the expediency of authorizing a portion of the public lands, in the vicinity of Fort Wayne and Defiance, to be laid off, under the direction of the Surveyor General, into town lots, and sold on account of the government.

Mr. Hill moved that when this house do adjourn it adjourn until Wednesday next, which motion was carried.

Mr. Cook called for the consideration of a resolution submitted on a former day by the member from Missouri (Mr. Sewell) to instruct the committee on the judiciary to inquire whether any, and if any, what alterations are necessary to be made in the organization of the courts of the U. States so as more equally to extend their advantages to the several States.

The house agreed to consider the same, and the resolution was adopted. The following gentlemen compose the committee to report a bill authorizing representatives among the several States according to the fourth census.

- Mr. Campbell, of O. Mr. Baldwin, of Va. Mr. Hays, of N. C. Mr. McLean, of Md. Mr. Wright, of Pa. Mr. Randolph, of N. C. Mr. Edwards, of N. C. Mr. Lowndes, of Ga. Mr. Reid, of N. C. Mr. Trimble, of Va. Mr. Johnson, of La. Mr. Allen, of Va. Mr. Hendricks, of Va. Mr. Cook, of Va. Mr. Whitman, of Va.

Adjournd to Wednesday, Dec. 26.

Mr. Rochester called for the consideration of the resolution introduced by him on Monday requesting information from the Treasury Department relative to the sales of public lands.

The house agreed to consider the same. After some verbal amendments suggested by Messrs. McCoy and Rankin, which were assented to by the mover, the question was taken thereon, and the resolution adopted.

A report of the Commissioners of the Public Buildings on the subject of the property of the U. States in the city of Washington, was read, laid on the table, and ordered to be printed.

Thursday, Dec. 27.

Among the various petitions that were this day presented and referred, was a memorial of sundry citizens of the city of New York, presented by Mr. Cambreleng, and praying for the establishment of a uniform system of bankruptcy, which was referred to the committee of the whole house when on that subject.

Mr. S. Smith, from the committee of ways and means, reported a bill entitled an act to authorize partial appropriations for the military service for the year 1822, and to make good a deficit in appropriations for the revolutionary pensioners.

The bill was twice read and committed, and Mr. Sterling submitted the following resolution:

Resolved, That a select committee be appointed to inquire into the expediency of referring the unsettled claims against the U. States growing out of the late war with G. Britain to the Third Auditor of the Treasury Department, to be settled by him, under the superintendance of the Secretary of War, upon principles of equity and justice, or to provide otherwise for the disposition of said claims in such manner as shall be just to the claimants and safe to the U. States, and that they have leave to report by bill or otherwise.

This resolution was laid on the table.

Friday, Dec. 28.

After the presentation and reference of petitions.

Mr. Floyd rose, he said, to submit a motion, relative to the execution of an act of the last session of Congress, which had been the subject of much difference of opinion in Congress, and, in its effect, he had learnt, had produced much discontent elsewhere. For his part, Mr. F. said, he was a supporter of that measure, had acted from the purest and most upright motives. He had very little doubt but that the law had been carried into effect with the same spirit as that which produced it. But as there were individuals who supposed that they had been aggrieved by the mode in which the law had been carried into effect, to place the matter in its proper light, in justice as well to those whose conduct on this occasion he supposed to have been misrepresented, he moved the following resolution:

Resolved, That the committee on Military Affairs be instructed to inquire and report to this house whether the army has been reduced, according to the provisions of the act to fix the Military Peace Establishment of the U. States, passed on the 23 day of March, 1811.

likely to grow out of the proposed inquiry. It was not calculated, in his opinion, to lead to any beneficial result. It might protract debate, and excite a ferment—but for any national purposes, it was worse than useless. It related to a supposed misunderstanding between two subordinate officers—and there was a little propriety for this inquiry as there would be if this house were to call upon the President of the U. S. for information relative to alleged differences between the marshal and the district clerk.

Mr. Sawyer could perceive no reason for surprise that this resolution had been warmly resisted, especially when the mover came boldly out with an avowal that it was to lay the foundation of an impeachment. Mr. S. believed it was only calculated to excite the feelings of the house, without being productive of any benefit to the public. He did not wish for a revival of the Seminole controversy, and thought General Jackson had been persecuted enough already. He therefore moved, that the resolution be indefinitely postponed.

The motion for an indefinite postponement having been then seconded, the question was taken thereon, and lost.

The question was then put on Mr. Cannon's motion, and negatived.

Mr. M. Lane thought, if an inquiry was to be made, it should be broad enough to enable the house to sweep itself of all the information of which the case was susceptible. He wished the house to be put in possession of the sentiments and views of the executive in relation to the subject. The conduct of his subordinate agents was called in question. The opinion which the President entertained had not been disclosed. It might, perhaps, if obtained, relieve the house from any further trouble. He therefore moved to add to the resolution a further request, that the President of the United States would communicate to the house such parts of the correspondence of the late Governor of Florida with the Executive as have not been heretofore communicated, and which may be consistent with the public interest to disclose, touching the proceedings of the said governor during the period of his government of Florida.

The amendment was agreed to; when the question on the resolution, as amended, was taken, and carried.

The speaker presented a communication from the Secretary of State, in conformity to an act of Congress to fix the compensation, &c. of the clerks of the different departments; which, on motion of Mr. Little, was laid on the table, and ordered to be printed.

Resolved, That the committee on public lands be instructed to inquire into the expediency of continuing in force for two years an act granting a double accession to the inhabitants of the State of Louisiana, or to report what causes have prevented them from availing themselves of the law. That they be instructed to inquire into the expediency of reorganizing the districts of the surveyor general south of Tennessee, so as to create one district for the State of Louisiana and one for the State of Mississippi; and that they provide by law that the surveyor general of each district give security for the faithful disbursement of the money placed in his hands.

Resolved, That the committee on the judiciary be instructed to inquire into the expediency of providing by law for the punishment of murder, robbery, or any other crime, which, if committed within the body of a county, would, by the laws of the United States, be punishable with death, when the one shall be committed on board the ships of war of the United States, within the limits of any river, basin, or bay, within the jurisdictional limits of any particular State.

The speaker presented a communication from the Navy Department, estimating the additional expense of examining the different harbours belonging to the U. States in the Pacific Ocean, and transporting 150 tons weight of artillery to the mouth of Columbia river, at \$25,000.

On motion of Mr. Floyd, the said communication was referred to the select committee appointed on the subject of securing a military post at the mouth of Columbia river.

The speaker further presented a communication from the comptroller of the Treasury department, containing an abstract of the outstanding balances due on the books of the third auditor of the treasury; which was ordered to be printed and laid on the table.

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Mr. Hemphill, from the committee on roads and canals, made a detailed report thereon, which shall be hereafter published, accompanied by the following bill:

An act to procure the necessary surveys, plans, and estimates, on the subject of Roads and Canals.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the President of the United States is hereby authorized to cause the necessary surveys, plans, and estimates, to be made, for a national road from the city of Washington to that of New Orleans, and for canals along the Atlantic coast, and to connect the waters of the Ohio above with those below the Falls at Louisville—Lake Erie with the Ohio river, and the tide waters of the Potomac with the same stream at Cumberland; and to designate what parts may be made capable of sleep navigation, and for communications between the Susquehanna and the rivers Seneca and Genesee, which empty into Lake Ontario; and between the Tennessee, Alabama, and Tombeckbee rivers; and for such other routes for roads and canals, as he may deem of national importance, in a commercial or military point of view. The surveys, plans, and estimates, for each, when completed, to be laid before Congress.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That, to carry in effect the objects of this act, the President be, and he is hereby authorized, to employ two skilful civil engineers, and such officers of the corps of engineers, or who may be detailed to do duty with that corps, as he may think proper; and the sum of ——— dollars be, and the same is hereby appropriated, to be paid out of any moneys in the treasury, not otherwise appropriated.

The bill was twice read and committed.

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Mr. Whitman called for the consideration of the resolution he had submitted in the early part of the session, requesting information from the President of the U. S. relative to any misunderstanding which may have existed between Gen Jackson and Judge Fromentin, in the territory of Florida, &c.

Mr. W. remarked, that he deemed the inquiry of the first importance, and if he had fully understood the reasons that had occasioned the previous postponement, they were founded upon an expected communication from the executive in relation to that subject, without a call from the house. But he (Mr. W.) had information on which he relied, that such was not the intention of the President, and of course, it could not be ineffectual to adopt the resolution.

The house, thereupon, agreed to consider the same, and the first question in order to be struck out the words "think proper to communicate," and to insert in lieu thereof the word "possess"—thereby requesting all the information possessed by the President in relation to the subject. The question was taken on this proposition, and lost—aves 61, noes 72.

The question then being upon the whole resolution.

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The speaker presented a communication from the Secretary of State, in conformity to an act of Congress to fix the compensation, &c. of the clerks of the different departments; which, on motion of Mr. Little, was laid on the table, and ordered to be printed.

Resolved, That the committee on public lands be instructed to inquire into the expediency of continuing in force for two years an act granting a double accession to the inhabitants of the State of Louisiana, or to report what causes have prevented them from availing themselves of the law. That they be instructed to inquire into the expediency of reorganizing the districts of the surveyor general south of Tennessee, so as to create one district for the State of Louisiana and one for the State of Mississippi; and that they provide by law that the surveyor general of each district give security for the faithful disbursement of the money placed in his hands.

Resolved, That the committee on the judiciary be instructed to inquire into the expediency of providing by law for the punishment of murder, robbery, or any other crime, which, if committed within the body of a county, would, by the laws of the United States, be punishable with death, when the one shall be committed on board the ships of war of the United States, within the limits of any river, basin, or bay, within the jurisdictional limits of any particular State.

The speaker presented a communication from the Navy Department, estimating the additional expense of examining the different harbours belonging to the U. States in the Pacific Ocean, and transporting 150 tons weight of artillery to the mouth of Columbia river, at \$25,000.