

Mr. HOLMAN obtained the floor.
Mr. RANDALL. Will the gentleman yield for a motion that the committee rise?

Mr. HOLMAN. I yield for that purpose.

Mr. RANDALL. I make the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The committee accordingly rose; and the Speaker having resumed the chair, Mr. HOSKINS reported that the Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union had, according to order, had under consideration the bill (H. R. No. 1594) making appropriations for the consular and diplomatic service of the Government for the year ending June 30, 1877, and for other purposes, and had come to no resolution thereon.

PAY AND ALLOWANCE OF ARMY OFFICERS.

Mr. BANNING, by unanimous consent, from the Committee on Military Affairs, reported back the bill (H. R. No. 1453) to regulate the pay and allowance of Army officers with a substitute, (H. R. No. 1806,) and moved that the substitute and a report accompanying the same be printed, and the bill recommitted to the committee.

The motion was agreed to.

PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS.

Mr. LUTTRELL. I find by reference to the RECORD that I am recorded as voting in the negative upon the amendment offered by my friend from Texas [Mr. REAGAN] to the proposed constitutional amendment which was under consideration yesterday. I voted in the affirmative, and ask that the correction be made in the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The correction will be made.

Mr. STENGER. In the RECORD of yesterday's proceedings I find my name recorded as not voting on the constitutional amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas, [Mr. REAGAN.] I was present and voted "no," and ask that the correction be made.

The SPEAKER. The correction will be made.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

Mr. GARFIELD. I move that the House now adjourn.

The SPEAKER. Before that motion is put the Chair will lay before the House certain executive documents now upon his desk.

IMPROVEMENT OF THE UPPER MISSISSIPPI.

The SPEAKER, by unanimous consent, laid before the House a letter from the Secretary of War, transmitting a report of the Chief of Engineers on surveys, &c., on the Upper Mississippi River, and recommending an appropriation of \$65,000 to improve the same; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce.

COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE MISSISSIPPI AND THE LAKES.

The SPEAKER also laid before the House a joint resolution of the Legislature of the State of Iowa on the subject of a water highway between the Mississippi River and Lake Michigan by way of the Fox and Wisconsin Rivers; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce.

REV. JOHN R. HAMILTON.

The SPEAKER also laid before the House a letter from the Secretary of War, transmitting, for the information of the Committee on Military Affairs, a report of the Adjutant-General upon the bill (H. R. No. 64) for the relief of Rev. John R. Hamilton; which was referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

PRESIDIO MILITARY RESERVATION, CALIFORNIA.

The SPEAKER also laid before the House a letter from the Secretary of War, transmitting, for the information of the Committee on Military Affairs, a copy of Senate Executive Document No. 55 and Senate Report No. 104, Forty-third Congress, first session, being a report on the Presidio military reservation, San Francisco, California; which was referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

TRANSFER OF INDIAN FUNDS TO THE TREASURER.

The SPEAKER also laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States:

To the House of Representatives:

I have the honor to return herewith without my approval House bill No. 1561, entitled "An act transferring the custody of certain Indian trust funds from the Secretary of the Interior to the Treasurer of the United States," for the reasons set forth in the accompanying communication from the Secretary of the Interior.

U. S. GRANT.

EXECUTIVE MANSION, February 3, 1876.

The SPEAKER. The Clerk will read the communication from the Secretary of the Interior.

The Clerk read as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, February 2, 1876.

Sir: I acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 29th ultimo, transmitting H. R. bill No. 1561 and requesting this Department to report whether any objections to its becoming a law are known to exist. In reply I have the honor to state that I am fearful the act is not sufficiently definite in terms to accomplish the end desired, namely, the mere transfer of the custody of said trust fund, enabling this Department to receive the interest from the custodian and apply it as heretofore without the intervention of Congress.

The nature of the guardianship and control over the Indians exercised by me as Secretary and trustee is such as to require this Department to keep an account of the funds to their credit or held in trust for them, and to receive this interest on their trust funds promptly when due. I am fearful that this bill may not allow me to do so; and to guard against any danger of embarrassment in the transaction

of this business I inclose a draught of a bill which, if substituted for the one already passed, will, it is believed, obviate the difficulties which may arise if the present bill should become a law.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

Z. CHANDLER,
Secretary.

Mr. RANDALL. I move that the message and accompanying documents be printed and referred to the Committee on Appropriations. I desire to say that the bill which has been returned by the President was reported from the Committee on Appropriations at the suggestion of the Department of the Interior. A subcommittee of that committee, as I understand, waited upon the Secretary of the Interior, who suggested an amendment thereto, which was incorporated in the bill as passed.

Mr. GARFIELD. Let it be referred to the Committee on Appropriations, and they can examine and report upon it.

Mr. RANDALL. I only meant to place the committee right.

Mr. GARFIELD. If it has been ascertained that there is some inaccuracy of expression in the bill—

Mr. RANDALL. It is a very strange thing that we should pass a bill at the instance of the Department, and that very Department should cause it to be vetoed.

Mr. HOLMAN. A bill prepared at the instance of the Department itself?

Mr. RANDALL. Yes.

Mr. GARFIELD. Let it go to the committee.

Mr. RANDALL. That is my motion.

The motion of Mr. RANDALL was then agreed to.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

Mr. DAVIS was granted leave of absence for five days, on account of important business.

Mr. WELLS, of Mississippi, was granted leave of absence from the 4th to the 16th instant.

Mr. HOLMAN. I move that the House now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; and accordingly (at four o'clock and thirty minutes p. m.) the House adjourned.

PETITIONS, ETC.

The following memorials, petitions, and other papers were presented at the Clerk's desk under the rule, and referred as stated:

By the SPEAKER: The petition of the Grand Lodge of Good Templars of Indiana, signed by the officers thereof, representing 13,000 members, for a commission of inquiry concerning the alcoholic liquor traffic, to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BARNUM: The petition of citizens of Wilmington, Delaware, for the repeal of the check-stamp tax, to the Committee of Ways and Means.

By Mr. BELL: The remonstrance of Merrimack River Grange No. 4, Patrons of Husbandry, of Canterbury, New Hampshire, against granting subsidies to railroads, to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. CASON: The petition of citizens of Lafayette and of Jamestown, Indiana, for the repeal of the stamp-tax on safety matches, to the Committee of Ways and Means.

By Mr. GUNTER: Papers relating to the petition of James Lindsay, for pay for a battery of three guns furnished the United States, to the Committee on War Claims.

By Mr. HATHORN: The petition of citizens of New York, for the repeal of the check-stamp tax, to the Committee of Ways and Means.

By Mr. HAYMOND: The petition of citizens of White County, Indiana, for the repeal of the resumption act, to the Committee on Banking and Currency.

By Mr. HOLMAN: Papers relating to the petition of Emmett Longston, for a pension, to the Committee on Invalid Pensions.

By Mr. HOUSE: Papers relating to the claim of Mrs. Martha A. Stevens, for pay for stores and supplies taken by the United States Army, to the Committee on War Claims.

By Mr. JONES, of New Hampshire: The petition of the Woman's Temperance League of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, for a commission of inquiry concerning the alcoholic liquor traffic, to the Committee of Ways and Means.

By Mr. KING: Papers relating to the petition of Henry D. O'Brien, late postmaster at Saint Anthony Falls, Minnesota, for relief, to the Committee on the Post-Office and Post-Roads.

By Mr. LANDERS, of Connecticut: The petition of A. B. Cranell and others, for a signal station to be established at Block Island, Connecticut, to the Committee on Appropriations.

Also, the petition of William Montgomery and 18 others, of Rockville, Connecticut, for the abolition of the office of President of the United States, to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Also, the petition of William Montgomery and 18 others, of Rockville, Connecticut, "concerning the revocability of the people's legislative representatives and the ratification by the people's vote of all important legislative enactments," to the same committee.

By Mr. LANDERS, of Indiana: The petition of John Thomas, to have a patent renewed for an improvement in piling railroad bars for rerolling, to the Committee on Patents.

By Mr. LANE: The petition of Ladd & Tilton and 100 other citizens of Oregon, for the repeal of the check-stamp tax, to the Committee of Ways and Means.