

THE ENTERPRISE.

OREGON CITY, OREGON, MAY 5, 1876

Winslow and Oregon.

Winslow, the revered swindler, has become the cause of diplomatic complications between the United States and Great Britain. Since the extradition treaty was negotiated by both countries, persons indicted for any of the offenses recognized by the treaty, including murder, piracy, robbery, arson and forgery, have been surrendered whenever the usual forms have been complied with. Several years ago the British Parliament passed an act providing in effect that before any prisoner shall be surrendered, the government demanding him must make a pledge that he shall not be tried upon any other charge than that mentioned in the order of extradition. This was placing an entirely new construction upon the treaty, and was an attempt to modify it in an important particular without the consent of one of the parties to it. Such an arrogant act could not of course be recognized by the government of the United States. Acquiescence in this new condition was formally refused, and Great Britain not then insisting upon the preposterous right of the parliament to amend the treaty, the exchange of prisoners went on as before. Objection has now been made to the surrender of Winslow without a pledge from the United States in conformity with the act of Parliament, and Mr. Fish has formally refused to give any such pledge. He has replied to the demand and informed the British government that if it insists upon holding Winslow as subject to prosecution only on the charges set forth in the warrant of extradition, our government will consider it such an infraction of the article of the treaty relative to extradition as to warrant a demand for the abrogation of that article. It was but a few days since the brief telegram came over the wires that the treaty between this country and Great Britain was virtually annulled. No other course is left us but henceforth to refuse to surrender any British criminals who may fall into our possession.

The breaking of this treaty affects Oregon more than perhaps any other State in the Union. We are but a short distance from British Columbia, and our lives will make that country their heaven, while this State will be the asylum for absconding Colonists. An escaped prisoner or one fleeing from justice in this section of country has but a short distance, comparatively, to travel ere he is beyond the reach of the law. We will all learn, sooner or later, how seriously this trouble between Great Britain and the United States will react to Oregon's detriment. But sincerely regretting the diplomatic difficulties as we do, we would prefer, almost, that Oregon be made a second Van Diemen's Land, that it be overrun with escaped murderers and "Sydney Ducks," rather than self-important England should break her treaties with us at pleasure, and dictate to our Secretary of State. Englishmen have exaggerated notions as to the power of an act of Parliament, for there is almost nothing which it may not accomplish within the British Dominions, from the changing of a man's name to the creating of a dynasty; but it is a little too much to claim that even that potent authority can assume to modify a treaty formally adopted and ratified by the joint action of the British government and another power, and we hope that Secretary Fish will remain firm in the stand he has taken.

Our Skirmish on the Rio Grande.

It is a matter of course that a rebellious outbreak in the northern States of Mexico involves our own border in a greater or less extent. A little fighting that our troops lately had there frightened the Democrats to such an extent that they saw in the simple skirmish a declaration of war with the hidden motive of giving Grant sufficient popularity to carry him for a third term to the White House. How disappointed they must now be at the quietness now reigning along the banks of the Rio Grande. Such little fights are to be expected as a natural result of mere contact. In these trivial complications there might be some trouble if Mexico were the most highly civilized of nations, and Texas the calmest tempered and most righteous of people. As Mexico falls far short of an ideal civilization, and as our Texans are not saints in any sense, we have no reason to wonder that something like a small skirmish has already occurred on the Rio Grande. We may congratulate ourselves, however, if the accounts received by telegraph are true, that our people have behaved well, and that the prudence of the American military commander has been marked as his promptitude. That there will be a war, we are sorry to say for the predictors of Caesarism, that it is entirely beyond probability.

The Albany Democrat says that the steamer City of Salem, Captain U. B. Scott, made the run from Albany to Salem, 43 miles, last Sunday, April 30, in 2 hours and 20 minutes running time. This is the quickest trip made between the two cities this season.

WASHINGTON LETTER.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 14, '76.

It is amusing to observe the frantic efforts periodically made by Congress to appear before the public in the attitude of enforcing strict economy inaugurating a system of thorough retrenchment and reform. This they do philanthropically and without regard to cost, and even to the extent of sacrificing the salaries and perquisites of some of their zealous though humble supporters. Conscious that the much-enduring nation is loaded to a degree approximating the last feather's weight, they strive to delude the patient national animal into believing its burden somewhat lighter; though the sad truth renders the relief but momentary and the comfort gained but the result of shifting the pressure from one set of aching muscles to another less sorely galled by actual contact with the pack. With immense display of zeal and energy they proclaim their purpose to stop the gaps through which the "life blood of the nation is ebbling away." The work is presented regardless of expense, millions are joyfully paid out, and, at last, amid the grand flourish of party trumpets and peans of congratulatory acclamation, it is made apparent to the grateful public that a leak has been stopped, the tax-payer's sacred privileges protected, and the saving of a sixpence per annum effected for the ensuing two years. That this is no hyperbole, no flight of fancy or effort of the imagination, a brief perusal of the Congressional record will show. For months the noise and clash of the busy engine of investigation have been heard; witnesses have been summoned from far and near; expenses to the amount of \$125,000 have been incurred; and all to what purpose? Careful examinations have failed to sustain grave accusations; the smoke has far exceeded the fire; and indiscriminate investigation has proved hurtful to none but the party engaged in its prosecution. At the beginning of the present session, Congress promised stern, unyielding and impartial measures, akin unto Roman virtue, in their severity;—since then, four months have passed away, and a curious public may well ask what has been accomplished. First, the civil service has been crippled by the indefinite furlough of three hundred clerks; salaries have been decreased, and the general efficiency of the Executive branch of the Government greatly impaired. While in legislative matters, the appropriation bill plays sad havoc with the disposal of the public funds and the tariff measure makes numerous changes in existing rates and duties. Wholesale condemnation is not your correspondent's intention, and accordingly these remarks are only such as are sustained by known facts. For example, take the river and harbor appropriation bill. Its passage was heralded as a stroke of economy, and to the credulous it might so appear; yet, it requires but a moment's examination to read the veil of innocent motives and lay bare the miserable subterfuges of the measure. Under the guise of retrenchment, and by the provisions of this bill, hundreds of thousands of dollars are virtually devoted to private ends. A \$3,000,000 steel in a \$5,000,000 appropriation, with Sam. Randall of Pennsylvania as the accredited authority for the statement, is certainly encouraging and prophecies well for the dawning Centennial era of reform.

Hallett Kilbourn, the recalcitrant "ring" witness, still continues his exile behind the bars of our district jail. For nearly a month he has suffered the rigors of Congressional displeasure, and, martyr like, refuses to allow his private papers to be subjected to the scrutiny of the inquisitive Congressmen, who had hoped through them to solve the enigma of the famous Washington real estate "pool." His incarceration, although in direct violation of the Constitution, is sustained under the caption of "British precedents," to which, as a matter of course, Judge Black (Mr. K.'s counsel) objects, and denounces the entire proceeding as an illegal and unjustifiable usurpation of authority. Congress, some years since, made an express provision for the punishment of refractory witnesses, by due course of law in the district courts, and thus by its own decision must stand convicted of error. The writ of habeas corpus has, however, been issued in the case, and it is therefore presumable that a thorough ventilation of the subject will soon ensue, when it is hoped the powers of our American House of Commons will be clearly defined. Like every rose with an attendant thorn, so each Congressional measure has joined with its varying phases, the concomitants of seriousness and comedy, and to this rule the present case is no exception. During last week the quiet ohneke of satisfaction so frequently audible in the House after the announcement of Kilbourn's disfigurement, was rudely interrupted by the presentation of a little bill for furnishing the prisoner with his meals. To this extent there was nothing unusual in the proceedings, but the joke was duly appreciated when it became known that the honorable members were called upon to liquidate an account for viands consumed to the tune of \$30 per diem.

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The Senate then, at 1:35, retired to consider the order as submitted by Conkling, and the amendment of Edmunds thereto. At 4 o'clock the Senators returned to the chamber and presiding officer Ferry announced that several orders had been agreed upon, which were read by the clerk, as follows: Ordered, That the managers be heard, and determine the question whether Belknap, the respondent, is amenable to trial by impeachment for acts done as Secretary of War, notwithstanding his resignation of office, and that the managers and counsel in such argument discuss the question whether issues of fact are material; and whether the matters in support of jurisdiction alleged by the House in the pleadings subsequent to the articles of impeachment are not inserted in said articles. Second. 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Edmunds, of Vt., submitted the following and asked its immediate consideration: Resolved, That the committee on commerce be and is hereby directed to inquire what legislation it is necessary and expedient to provide regulations concerning the immigration or other arrival of persons in the United States from other countries with a view of securing the people against the evils of pauperism, crime and other injuries to morals and good order of society, and with the views of securing lawful aid to the States in the exercise of sanitary and police jurisdiction and that said committee report by bill or otherwise. Laid over. Morrison submitted an amendment in the nature of a substitute for the House bill to prevent the solicitation, contribution or acceptance by any officer or employee of the government of money, property or other things of value for political purposes. Ordered printed. 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The order under which the flow of gas and water and the use of fuel in the United States buildings was stopped has been the cause of just complaint and condemnation throughout the land. The United States Court at Portland has received the order in question, and in night sittings would have to use tallow dips were it not for the confidence placed by the Portland Gas Company in Congress eventually recovering its senses. The Democratic House informs us the appropriation for lighting, cleaning and warming the federal buildings is exhausted. Then why in the name of common sense does not the committee on appropriations rush to the breach. This is a case of actual necessity, and we hope the House will suddenly be awakened to that fact. The country will applaud the efforts of the Democrats at retrenchment, but it does not grudge fuel, gas and water for the public offices. The committee on appropriations ought to save every dollar it can, but cheapening economy is perhaps worse than extravagance as it is pleasant to die after a short and happy life, than to die on a miserable existence in the avocation of a beggar.

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Manager Hour spoke in favor of the motion to rescind the order. He claimed the managers had the right to close, and referred to various English precedents in support of his views. The discussion was continued at some length by Hour, Carpenter and Lord, and at 2:20 the Senate retired for consultation. The Senators returned to the chamber at 2:55, and the presiding officer said he was requested to state that the motion to rescind the vote by which the order of argument was made was overruled; also, that the respondent be allowed to open and close the question of jurisdiction had been granted. The Senate setting as court of impeachment then adjourned until Thursday. May 2.—Allison from the committee on Indian affairs, reported favorably on the House bill appropriating \$50,000 for subsistence and supplies for the Apache Indians in Arizona, and for the removal of the Indians of Chiricahua agency to San Carlos agency. Passed. Edmunds, of Vt., submitted the following and asked its immediate consideration: Resolved, That the committee on commerce be and is hereby directed to inquire what legislation it is necessary and expedient to provide regulations concerning the immigration or other arrival of persons in the United States from other countries with a view of securing the people against the evils of pauperism, crime and other injuries to morals and good order of society, and with the views of securing lawful aid to the States in the exercise of sanitary and police jurisdiction and that said committee report by bill or otherwise. Laid over. Morrison submitted an amendment in the nature of a substitute for the House bill to prevent the solicitation, contribution or acceptance by any officer or employee of the government of money, property or other things of value for political purposes. Ordered printed. April 28.—On motion of Lord, permission was given the managers of the Belknap impeachment case to examine as witnesses on trial the members of the committee on expense in the War Department, or any members of the House whose testimony they may deem requisite. Kelley introduced a bill for the admission free of duty of the machinery used in the production of raw silk; referred. May 1.—The Speaker laid before the House a communication from Kilbourn, offering to come before

Starving Economy.

The order under which the flow of gas and water and the use of fuel in the United States buildings was stopped has been the cause of just complaint and condemnation throughout the land. The United States Court at Portland has received the order in question, and in night sittings would have to use tallow dips were it not for the confidence placed by the Portland Gas Company in Congress eventually recovering its senses. The Democratic House informs us the appropriation for lighting, cleaning and warming the federal buildings is exhausted. Then why in the name of common sense does not the committee on appropriations rush to the breach. This is a case of actual necessity, and we hope the House will suddenly be awakened to that fact. The country will applaud the efforts of the Democrats at retrenchment, but it does not grudge fuel, gas and water for the public offices. The committee on appropriations ought to save every dollar it can, but cheapening economy is perhaps worse than extravagance as it is pleasant to die after a short and happy life, than to die on a miserable existence in the avocation of a beggar.

Over-Zealous.

Verily are the Democrats of the House still thirsting for gore. Not content with putting Belknap on his defense before the Senate, they want to impeach somebody else, and now meditate, it is said, pitching on Clapp, the Congressional printer, as their next victim. After bagging such big game at the first shot, it is not surprising that their appetites are keenly whetted for more, but they ought not to level their cannon at such a tom-tit as Clapp. He is not worth impeaching if he is a rascal—and it has been by no means proved—and it is very questionable whether he is enough of a government officer to be impeachable under the Constitution. There is no glory or political capital to be extracted from him. If really guilty, as the House seems to look upon as a foregone conclusion, an indictment and trial before a criminal court is the kind of punishment for such "small fry." One snuff of impeachment from afar has seemed to turn the head of the Democratic Congressman, and everybody suspected of wrong, from an impetuous hoodlum to the Chief Executive, must be impeached.

The Samoan Farce.

The dispatches the other day informed us that Secretary Fish would pay no attention to the Samoan difficulties, for he considered Steinberger (who was at the bottom of all the trouble), an adventurer and a man who has forfeited his United States citizenship by accepting emoluments and office under a foreign government. We were agreeably disappointed that the anti-administrators forgot to raise their howl of indignation at the "cowardly" conduct of our high-handed authority of the British man-of-war. Steinberger has long been known in this country as an unprincipled trickster of the higher order, and it was with much relief that we heard of his departure to "a right tight little island that stands in the sea." The king of this mighty realm appointed Steinberger his prime minister, but becoming disgusted with double dealing caused him to be imprisoned on a British ship—and if the captain would only sail away with him he might be assured that no international trouble would come of it, and he would be the object of the lasting gratitude of the American people.

CONGRESSIONAL.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, April 23.—Legislative business was suspended at 12:30, and the impeachment trial was resumed.

Carpenter, of counsel for accused, addressed the Senate. He argued that the managers were attempting to manage the case of both sides. It was not the intention of counsel for the accused to cause any unnecessary delay in the case, but they had prior professional engagements and had not time to prepare themselves for arguing the question of jurisdiction. He said that the matter be delayed for two weeks from to-day, and they would then ask no further postponement. Lord on the part of the managers, opposed the request of Carpenter for postponement, and asked the Senate to leave the testimony in regard to jurisdiction. Conkling submitted an order that the Senate proceed first to hear and determine the question whether Belknap, the respondent, is amenable to trial by impeachment for acts done as Secretary of War, notwithstanding his resignation of office, and that the managers and counsel in such argument discuss the question whether issues of fact are material. 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