

By unanimous consent the President *pro tempore* was authorized to appoint the conferees on the part of the Senate, and Mr. BLAIR, Mr. DAVIS, and Mr. TURPIE were appointed.

## RETURN OF A BILL.

Mr. DAVIS. I move that the House of Representatives be requested to return the bill (S. 1427) granting an increase of pension to Elnathan Meade.

The motion was agreed to.

## BILLS INTRODUCED.

Mr. PADDOCK introduced a bill (S. 3296) granting a pension to Mrs. A. J. Horton; which was read twice by its title, and referred to the Committee on Pensions.

Mr. BERRY introduced a bill (S. 3297) for the relief of Sterling H. Tacker and others; which was read twice by its title, and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. PASCO introduced a bill (S. 3298) for the relief of Salvador Costa; which was read twice by its title, and referred to the Committee on Claims.

Mr. TURPIE (by request) introduced a bill (S. 3299) to authorize and empower the Secretary of the Navy to contract for certain guns and ammunition therefor; which was read twice by its title, and referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs.

Mr. HOAR introduced a bill (S. 3300) in relation to registry-letter envelopes; which was read twice by its title, and referred to the Committee on Post-Offices and Post-Roads.

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE (by request) introduced a bill (S. 3301) granting a pension to Richard J. Nichol; which was read twice by its title, and, with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Pensions.

Mr. VOORHEES introduced a bill (S. 3302) for the relief of Louisa Kearney; which was read twice by its title, and, with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Claims.

Mr. VEST introduced a bill (S. 3303) amendatory of "An act relating to postal crimes and amendatory of the statutes therein mentioned," approved June 18, 1888; which was read the first time by its title.

Mr. VEST. I propose that this bill be referred to the Committee on Post-Offices and Post Roads, but I want to call the attention of that committee, and especially of my friend from Delaware [Mr. SAULSBURY], who reported the bill to which this is amendatory, to a singular state of case that has arisen in regard to one of the provisions of the bill which we have already passed.

On June 18, 1888, we passed an act amendatory of the act in regard to postal crimes, and one of the provisions of that bill is as follows:

And all matter otherwise mailable by law upon the envelope or outside cover or wrapper of which, or postal card, upon which indecent, lewd, lascivious, obscene, libelous, scurrilous, or threatening delineations, epithets, terms, or language, or reflecting injuriously upon the character or conduct of another, may be written or printed, are hereby declared to be non-mailable matter, and shall not be conveyed in the mails, nor delivered from any post-office nor by any letter-carrier.

The object of that amendment, which was at the instance of the Postmaster-General and which I had the honor to offer, was to do away with a species of blackmailing which has been used throughout the country. I say "throughout the country," but especially in two cities. I hold in my hand a specimen of one of these envelopes which is used in the collection of debts and which comes from Chicago. It has upon it in very large letters "Collecting bad debts," and in addition it has upon it these words:

If it is necessary to send another notice it will come in an envelope like this.

The one from Kansas City, which I also hold in my hand, is from another collection agency and has the same words upon it, "Bad Debt," in large letters. In another portion it says:

If no attention is paid to the inclosed notice, this envelope will come next.

As a matter of course a business man to whom one of these envelopes may be sent in the open mail would find himself advertised by means of this envelope in the community where he did business as a defaulter in the payment of his honest debts; in other words, that his debts were bad debts; and the clause of the statute which I have read was enacted for the purpose of doing away with this species of blackmailing, if nothing else.

Now in order to avoid that, with an ingenuity worthy of a much better cause, the persons engaged in this business have caused envelopes to be made, transparent envelopes, and on the inside the letter matter put in these envelopes are found the same words contained on the outside of the present envelopes, and that is done for the purpose of evading the law which we passed some three weeks ago, which punished the placing of this matter on the outside of an envelope.

The bill which I have offered is intended to meet the case as made now by these same parties, and to punish them for using the mails in this way; in other words, to make this matter punishable when it is contained not upon the outside envelope as the law now is, but upon any portion of it.

I hope my friend from Delaware will report the bill as soon as possible.

The bill was read the second time by its title, and referred to the Committee on Post-Offices and Post-Roads.

Mr. MANDERSON introduced a joint resolution (S. R. 99) provid-

ing for the printing of the portion of the annual report of the Chief of the Bureau of Statistics on commerce and navigation for the year ending June 30, 1887, entitled "Annual report of the Chief of the Bureau of Statistics in regard to imported merchandise entered for consumption in the United States, with amounts of duty and rates of duty collected;" which was read twice by its title, and referred to the Committee on Printing.

## MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE.

A message from the House of Representatives, by Mr. CLARK, its Clerk, announced that the House had passed a bill (H. R. 948) for the relief of William H. Tabarrah; in which it requested the concurrence of the Senate.

The message also returned to the Senate, in compliance with its request, the resolution of the Senate agreeing to the amendment of the House to the bill (S. 899) for the relief of Mary M. Briggs.

The message further announced that the House had agreed to the first amendment of the Senate to the joint resolution (H. Res. 196) declaring the true intent and meaning of the act approved May 9, 1888; that it had agreed to the second amendment of the Senate to the resolution with amendments, in which it requested the concurrence of the Senate, and that it also requested the concurrence of the Senate in an amendment to the title of the resolution.

## AMENDMENTS TO BILLS.

Mr. EVARTS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the sundry civil appropriation bill; which was referred to the Committee on Appropriations, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. BATE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill (H. R. 2952) for the allowance of certain claims for stores and supplies taken and used by the United States Army, as reported by the Court of Claims under the provisions of the act of March 3, 1883, known as the Bowman act; which was ordered to be printed, and, with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Claims.

## WITHDRAWAL OF PAPERS.

On motion of Mr. PALMER, it was

*Ordered*, That leave be granted to withdraw from the files the papers accompanying the bill (S. 1445) for the relief of Emma H. Fish, adversely reported.

*Ordered*, That leave be granted to withdraw from the files the papers accompanying the bill (S. 1075) for the relief of Elwin A. Scutt, adversely reported.

## PREVENTION OF COMPETITION.

Mr. SHERMAN. I submit a resolution for which I ask present consideration.

The PRESIDENT *pro tempore*. The resolution will be read.

The Chief Clerk read as follows:

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Finance be directed to inquire into and report, in connection with any bill raising or reducing revenue that may be referred to it, such measures as it may deem expedient to set aside, control, restrain, or prohibit all arrangements, contracts, agreements, trusts, or combinations between persons or corporations, made with a view, or which tend to prevent free and full competition in the production, manufacture, or sale of articles of domestic growth or production, or of the sale of articles imported into the United States, or which, against public policy, are designed or tend to foster monopoly or to artificially advance the cost to the consumer of necessary articles of human life, with such penalties and provisions, and as to corporations, with such forfeitures, as will tend to preserve freedom of trade and production, the natural competition of increasing production, the lowering of prices by such competition, and the full benefit designed by and hitherto conferred by the policy of the Government to protect and encourage American industries by levying duties on imported goods.

The PRESIDENT *pro tempore*. Is there objection to the present consideration of this resolution?

Mr. COCKRELL. I did not hear the first part of it.

The PRESIDENT *pro tempore*. It will be again reported.

The Chief Clerk read the first clause of the resolution.

The resolution was considered by unanimous consent, and agreed to.

## THE FISHERIES TREATY.

Mr. DOLPH. I observe that the Senator from Mississippi [Mr. GEORGE] has given notice that to-morrow morning, after the morning business is disposed of, he will address the Senate on the treaty between the United States and Great Britain. I give notice that at the conclusion of the Senator's remarks to-morrow, if there is time, and if not, then on Thursday, after the morning business, I shall ask the indulgence of the Senate to submit some remarks upon the treaty myself.

## MINOR CHILDREN OF LEVI M. HUNTER.

Mr. SAWYER. I move that the bill (S. 2932) granting a pension to the minor children of Levi M. Hunter be recommitted to the Committee on Pensions.

The motion was agreed to.

## THE INTERSTATE-COMMERCE LAW.

Mr. CULLOM. I neglected yesterday, after the passage of the bill (S. 2851) to amend an act entitled "An act to regulate commerce," approved February 4, 1887, to move that the bill as passed by the Senate be printed. I now make that motion.

The motion was agreed to.

## PACIFIC RAILROADS.

Mr. CULLOM. While on the floor I desire to give notice that to-