

General News.

The Treasury Report.

We are indebted to the Hon. William Aiken, for the Letter of the Secretary of the Treasury, giving the estimates of appropriations needed for the public service for the next fiscal year.

The Report of the Secretary of the Treasury indicates very great activity in his department, and that new energy, activity and system have been introduced into its complex machinery.

The Secretary advises the abolition of the Salt duty and the fishing bounty—changes that have been talked of as part of a proposed settlement of the Fishery question with England.

But the most interesting particulars in the Secretary's recommendations, are his enlarged free list, and his list of articles taxed at 100 per cent.

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The annual Report of Col. Jefferson Davis, Secretary of War, contains a variety of interesting facts, and recommends several very important reforms in the Army of the United States.

The authorized strength of the United States Army is 13,821 men and officers; but the actual strength according to the latest returns, is only 10,417, of which number, 8,378 are employed in the frontier departments, or are on their way to them.

A majority of the cases of Indian depredations in Texas, which have come to the knowledge of the department, have been by Indians from Mexican territory, Major Gen. Smith, aided by an experienced officer of engineers, is selecting sites for permanent fortifications on the Rio Grande.

It is the intention of the department that as soon as possible, a considerable force shall be sent to the Pacific Coast, and one of the Brigadier Generals of the Army ordered to the command.

In consequence of the difficulty of keeping the ranks full, the Secretary proposes—1st, an increase of the present pay of the common soldier; 2d, an additional increase for each successive period of five years, so long as he shall remain in the Army; 3d, provision for the promotion to the lowest grades of commissioned officers of such of the non-commissioned officers of the Army as may be found qualified for such promotion.

The Secretary urges elaborately in favor of the increase of the Army, showing the actual necessity for such a measure.

He recommends that the minimum organization of all companies be fixed as in the mounted riflemen, at 63 privates, and that there be added to the present military establishment one regiment of dragoons, and two regiments of riflemen which would give a minimum organization of 15,528 officers and men, which may be expanded, if the limit fixed by the law of June 7th, 1850, be continued to 17,414 and on a war establishment, of 123 privates per company, to 27,818, thus providing for a state of war an effective increase of from 10,000 to 12,000 men without the creation of new regiments.

South Carolina Legislature.

TUESDAY, Dec. 12, 1853.

Mr. Witherspoon, from the Committee on Federal Relations, to which was referred so much of the Message of his Excellency the Governor as relates to colored seamen, reported.

A Bill to amend an Act entitled "An Act more effectually to prevent free negroes and other persons of color from entering into the State, and for other purposes," passed on the nineteenth day of December, Anno Domini, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-five.

The President laid before the Senate the report of the President of the Bank of the State of South Carolina, in relation to notes of a less denomination than five dollars; which was ordered to lie on the table.

The report of the Joint Special Committee, appointed on the part of the Senate to examine the Bank of the State of South Carolina at Charleston, was read.

A Bill to authorize the formation of the Newberry and Chester Railroad Company received the second reading, was agreed to, and ordered to be sent to the House of Representatives.

The General Orders were suspended. Mr. Chesnut submitted the reports of the Committee on Agriculture and Internal Improvements.

On a Bill to authorize the Laurens Railroad Company to extend their Road from Laurens C. H. to the North Carolina line, in the direction of Asheville, recommending its passage; and

On a Bill to charter a Company to construct a Railroad from the Junction of the Camden and Columbia Branches of the South Carolina Railroad to Hamburg, South Carolina; recommending the passage of the Bill with amendments.

A Bill from the House of Representatives, to repeal the sixth section of an act entitled, "An Act to extend the Charter of the Bank of the State of South Carolina."

The question being upon the amendment offered, by Mr. Mazyck, as follows: "That hereafter, it shall be lawful for every Bank in this State to issue less denomination than five dollars, and not less than one dollar."

Those who voted in the affirmative are Hon. R. F. W. Alston, President, Messrs. Adams, Barker, Barton, Brockman, Calhoun, Carew, DeTriville, Drayton, Dudley, Fishburne, Goodwyn, Ingram, Marshall, Mazyck, McAlley, Miller, Nowell, Porter, Townsend, Williams, and John Wilson.

Those who voted in the negative are Messrs. Bedon, Boozer, Buchanan, Cannon, Carn, Chesnut, Ewins, Grissett, Harlee, Halse, Hibben, Huey, Moorman, Moses, Powe, Ruth, James J. Wilson, Witherspoon and Zimmerman.

In the affirmative, 18; in the negative, 19. The amendment was agreed to, and the bill was amended accordingly.

The bill was further amended, on motion of Mr. Adams, by adding to the amendment just agreed to, the following words: "Provided, That no private bank shall issue more than one tenth of its capital in such small bills."

On the question of agreeing to the bill as amended, the yeas and nays were ordered to be taken, and they are as follows: Those who voted in the affirmative are Hon. R. F. W. Alston, President; Messrs. Cannon, Carn, Drayton, Ewing, Grissett, Harlee, Hibben, Ingram, Marshall, McAlley, Moses, Powe, Ruth, Williams, James J. Wilson, Witherspoon and Zimmerman.

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In the affirmative, 18; in the negative, 25. Mr. Buchanan submitted the favorable report of the Committee on Finance and Banks, on a memorial of sundry citizens, praying that the re-charter of the Bank of Charleston may be granted upon condition that its capital be reduced to one million dollars; which was ordered for consideration to-morrow.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—On the memorial of Merchants and others, for re-charter of the Bank of Charleston with its present capital.

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Correspondence of the Charleston Mercury.

COLUMBIA, Dec. 14.

There were two quite spirited debates in the House to-day. First upon the appropriation for the new State House; and secondly on a bill creating a separate Appeal Court, composed of three Judges, both in Law and Equity.

On the former, Mr. Wagner made a sensible and appropriate speech. He pressed the demand for \$1,000,000, in order that the work might proceed more rapidly. But it was evident that his proposition would not go down.

Mr. Winstead opened the attack, followed by Mr. Owens, and the Debate was continued by Messrs. Middleton, Perry, Sloan and others, until after sundry amendments, the House, at last voted an appropriation of 250,000, to be raised by loan, the payment of which posterity will doubtless have to look after.

The second discussion, as I just stated, was upon the bill reported by the Joint Committee of the House and Senate, to remodel the Judiciary.

Mr. Campbell commenced the debate and sketched out the line of argument, which was afterwards followed in support of the change. That under the operation of the present system the opinions and decisions of our Judiciary had been undergoing steady depreciation.

Mr. McGowan opposed the bill. He did not believe that any change was needed, or that the character of our decisions was deteriorating. He was opposed to blending law and equity into one court.

Mr. Thomson opposed the bill, stating that the fault of the officer was not caused by the system. That an itinerant judiciary was of great service in collecting the changes of public opinion, and conforming their opinions to the demands of society and progress.

Mr. Thornwell opposed the bill. He thought that the objections to the present system originated more in the chagrin of disappointed solicitors than in any just defects in the present system.

Mr. Mullins moved to amend, limiting the jurisdiction of the Court of Errors to constitutional questions. Lost.

The debate was then adjourned to 7 o'clock this evening. On its opening Mr. Hunt addressed the House in support of the bill, and thereupon sprung up a racy debate, in which Messrs. Perry, Campbell, Owens and Thomson took a share.

DEATH OF WM. ADGER, Esq.—It is our melancholy duty this morning to announce the death of William Adger Esq., fourth son of James Adger Esq., and one of the most esteemed merchants of this city, which occurred, as the Telegraph informs us, at New York yesterday.

Mr. Adger had left us some two or three weeks since, on an excursion, partly for business purposes and partly for recreation, in the full enjoyment of health; and the intelligence of his death, after a brief illness, has plunged his family and friends into the deepest distress, for which they have the heartfelt sympathies of our whole community, in which the deceased stood deservedly high.

Quiet and unobtrusive in his department, Mr. Adger was ever most assiduously engaged in the active duties of life. He was a member of the Presbyterian Church, of which he was an elder at the time of his death, and as President for many years of the Eagle Fire Company, rendered distinguished services in the Fire Department of our city—a department to which we are all indebted for our safety and security.

He was also characterized for his liberal and unostentatious charities, and was most emphatically a true friend to the deserving; and although, naturally, this sad bereavement will more severely afflict the immediate family circle, who best know how to appreciate the extent of the calamity that has befallen them, yet there are many others who will long remember his numerous acts of pure and disinterested friendship.—Chas. Courier.

SUDDEN DEATH.—We are pained to learn of the death of Mr. John Duncan, of this District which occurred on Friday last.

Friday was an excessively cold day, and Mr. Duncan was returning with his wagon from Camden. When about 12 or 14 miles from Laurens, he told his boy he could not stand the weather unless he could meet up with some fire by which he could warm himself.

The Columbia South Carolinian learns that Professor C. F. McCay, has signified his intention to accept the Professorship of Mathematics and Mechanical Philosophy, to which he was recently elected, on the declination of Prof. Gibbs, of the Charleston College.

It is with regret that the death of Mr. Wm. Adger is announced. He was one of the most prominent business men of Charleston, and in all the relations of life a most estimable gentleman.

The Camden Weekly Journal.

Tuesday, December 20, 1853.

Portrait Painting. We call attention to the advertisement of Mr. Frz-wisow, in another column.

Adjournment of the Legislature. Eight o'clock this evening, is the hour appointed for the adjournment of the Legislature.

Adjutant and Inspector General. Col. R. G. M. DUNSTON, of Chester, has been elected Adjutant and Inspector General, by a majority of twelve votes over General CANTLEY.

Bank of the State. On Saturday last, the following gentlemen were elected President and Directors of the Bank of the State of South Carolina for the ensuing year: President—C. M. FURMAN.

The South Carolinian. The visits of our neighbor for the past week have been rather scattering. To be deprived of the Carolinian is a serious inconvenience at any time, but during the session, it is an actual grievance.

Congress. The proceedings of this body as yet, possess little interest, the first weeks of the session being devoted to arranging the wires for future operations.

Editorial Correspondence. To-day is one of those days which are expected in December—a slow, cold, rainy, dark day—which gives little promise of much business being done.

Cotton. For the last few days, has been tolerably steady, prices varying from 8 to 101. On Monday the sales reached 1347 bales, at from 8 to 104; on Tuesday, 2000 bales were sold at from 8 1/2 to 101; on Wednesday, 2100, at from 8 1/2 to 101; on Thursday, some 1100 bales were sold at usual prices, say from 8 to 101; on Friday there was a good demand, and the sales reached fully 1500 bales, with prices from 8 1/2 to 101; on Saturday 200 bales at 104.

The review of the Cotton market in the Courier, for the week ending with Thursday last, exhibits the receipts for that time to have been 13,689 bales, and the sales in the same time foot up in round numbers 10,000 bales, at prices above stated.

As matters all our readers are interested in commercial matters, we subjoin a brief extract from the Courier's record. We copy as we find the several commodities reported there: RICE—The transactions have been at extremes, ranging from \$3.25 to \$4.12 1/2 per hundred.

These embrace the necessary articles of trade; and we have given at some length a synopsis of the Charleston market, thinking perhaps our country friends would be glad to know how matters are going here.—We shall follow this up hereafter in our correspondence, and give each week a summary of such matters as are of general interest in the commercial transactions of our city.

In the general gossiping line I have very little to report. I have no particular fancy for the word, at best, as its literal signification implies a character which we have no desire to assume. But, as Editors are expected to know everything, and a little more besides, we must try and fill up a sheet or two with such matters as may occur to us in our cogitations.

I learn that several cases of small-pox are in the city; but I do not know that any of them are now likely to prove fatal. It is hardly to be presumed that a place the size of Charleston can always be exempt from disease, where there is such a mixed multitude of all kinds, colors and characters. Some live in Charleston, and the wonder is that they live at all—no regard to cleanliness—and if our city should be so unfortunate as to be again visited by yellow fever or the cholera, the cause will, no doubt, be found in those who have no regard for decency and comfort—no respect for themselves or for others.

We have no doubt the grog shops of Charleston contribute as much to the engendering of disease, we are all the time passing these miserable places—either corner doggeries or fashionable saloons—all eagerly engaged in the common work.

Notwithstanding the fearful odds against them, the Temperance men are engaged earnestly in their work, and the weekly meetings of Palmetto Division are well worth attending. There is always something to be seen or heard calculated to inspire our confidence and renew our hopes.

The papers this morning, report the loss of the Brig Palo Alto of this port, the particulars of which, we presume will be copied into our paper.

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TELEGRAPHIC INTELLIGENCE.

Arrival of the Asia.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 15.—The Royal Mail steamer Asia arrived at New York to-day, bringing Liverpool dates to the 31st.

The sales of Cotton for the week were 45,000 bales, of which Speculators took 6000 and Exporters 3000 bales.

All qualities of flour had declined 2-1/2, but holders were not pressing the market. Western, 34s 6d; Ohio, 35s 6d. Corn was in moderate demand—prices in favor of buyers.

Trade in the manufacturing districts had largely declined. Transactions in American securities had been small.

The war makes little progress, but so far favors the Turks. A new project of arrangement has been proposed by Austria.

Additional per Asia. BALTIMORE, Dec. 13.—Skirmishes along the Danube continue. In Asia the success of the Turks is brilliant.

Austria has proposed a conference either at Vienna, Paris or London. The powers are reported as favorable, and that Russia and Turkey will be invited to send delegates.

The Sultan declined to receive further treasure from the Ulemas, being unwilling to make it a religious war. Apartments are preparing at Adrianople for the Sultan.

Affairs in Serbia are unsatisfactory. The Servians demand an exequatur from the Sultan for a Russian Consul, and the Porte thinks Serbia is under Russian influence, though it promises neutrality.

It is said an alliance, offensive and defensive, has taken place between England and France, Spain and Sardinia.

It is reported a revolution has broken out in Portugal in favor of Don Miguel.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 15.—Cotton in Liverpool, of Middling qualities, scarce; other descriptions plentiful. Denistoun quotes Middling Uplands at 5 1/2-1/4; lower grades hardening.

The Senate proceedings to-day were unimportant. In the House, resolutions to purchase Mount Vernon were warmly discussed, but there was no division.

The Senate resolution changing the mode of the appointment of the Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, elicited considerable debate, Ewing of Kentucky, regarding it as an indirect assault on Guthrie, which Bayley and Houston denied.

In Baltimore Flour was easier; Grain firm. In New York Breadstuffs were steady; Corn better.

John Mitchell, the Irish patriot, has agreed to visit Baltimore. It is rumored in Washington, that an expedition, four thousand strong, will sail for Cuba in the middle of February, from New Orleans.

Loss of the BRIG PALO ALTO OF THIS PORT.—We regret to learn by the arrival at this Port yesterday of the French Barque Neustrie, Capt. Ramal, that on the 4th inst., just before daylight, between Cape Florida and Gun Bank she came in contact with the brig Palo Alto, Capt Kay, of this port.

The barque Neustrie sailed from Havana on the 27th ult., with sugar, and was bound to Falmouth for orders. She was put into this port in consequence of being leaky, and having received some damage from the collision.