population and labour into one particular channel, prefarably to all others. The utmost extent of protection granted to manufactures or commerce by our statutes collectively, since the first foundation of the government, has been, in its mere effect, of drawing the people of the United States into those pursuits, as nothing to it. No scale of imposts, no prohibitions or penalties, no bounties, no premiums, enforced or dispensed at the custom house, has equalled it It has served, and still serves, to draw in an annual stream of the inhabitants of a majority of the states, including amongst them, at this day, a portion, not small, of the western states, into the settlement of fresh lands, lying still farther and further off.

If the population of these States, not yet redundant in fact, though appearing to be so under this legislative incitement to emigrate, remained fixed in more instances, as it probably would by extending the motives to manufacturing labor, it is believed that the nation at large would gain in two ways. 1. By the more rapid accumulation of capital, and next, by the gradual reduction of the excess of its agricultural population over that engaged in other vocations. It is not imagined that it would ever be practicable, even if it were desirable, to turn this stream of emigration aside; but resources opened through the influence of the laws, in new fields of industry, to the inhabitants of the States already sufficiently peopled to enter upon them, might operate to lessen, in some degree and usefully lessen, its absorbing force.—The eye of legislation, intent upon the whole good of the nation, will look to each part, not seperately, as a part, but in conjunction with the whole. The rapidity with which, after all, a civilized population, founding new and sovereign communities, will grow up in those exuberant portions of territory, presents considerations favourable to the main policy inculcated. This population, carrying with it the wants and habits of society, will create a demand for manufactures, which must, at least for some time, be supplied from other sources. It will hence form the natural market of purchase and consumption for those produced in other parts of the Union, rather than in the foreign countries. By this intercourse we may hope to see multiplied the commercial and pecuniary ties which it is fit should grow up & be cherished throughout the whole Federal family, superadding themselves to all other ties, and harmonizing and compacting the elements of a great Empire. Should it still be apprehended by any that evils will be generated in a state of society where large manufacturing classes co-exist, with a full population, to such minds the reflection must prove consolatory and re-assuring, that, in the Public Lands, a check to those evils will be at hand for ages to come. This immense domain, besides embodying all the ingredients, material and moral, of riches & power, throughout a long vista of the future, may therefore also be clung to under the various springs and conjoint movements of our happy political system, as a safeguard against contingent dangers. Its very possession is conceived to furnish paramount inducements, under all views, for quickening, by fresh legislative countenance, manufacturing labor throughout other parts of the Union.

It is a power to be turned to the account of manifold and transcendant blessings, rather than reposed upon for aggrandizing too exclusively the interest of Agriculture, fundamental as that must ever be in the State. Agriculture itself would be essentially benefitted; the price of lands, in all the existing States, would soon become enhanced, as well as the produce from them, by a policy that would, in any wise, tend to render portions of their present population more stationary, by supplying new and adequate motives to their becoming so. And, as it is the laws that have largely, in effect, throughout a long course of time, superinduced disinclinations to manufacturing labor, by their overpowering, calls to rural labour in the mode of selling off the Public Domain, the claim of further legal protection to the former kind of labor, at this day, seems to wear an aspect of justice no less than of expediency.

Finally, the great plans of Internal Improvement, so wisely in prosecution, or contemplated, in different portions of the country, will lose much of their object and value, if activity be not imparted to manufacturing industry.—The increased facilities of conveyance, which these plans are intended to effect; presuppose, as their basis, the necessity of transferring the produce of the country from place to place.—How such transfers will be increased by multiplying the products of manufacturing labor, is apparent. New resources for this kind of labor may be expected to rise up as these plans are in progress, whether by bringing to light occult treasures, or by affording, through improved transportation, the means of use to those already known. And then, as manufacturing enterprise, acting upon a greater variety and abundance of materials, shall be seen to enlarge its spheres, how much more reciprocally beneficial will not its exchanges become with the produce of the land? It is this state of things that will emphatically bind together the farmer, the manufacturer, and the merchant, in one indissoluble connexion. Towns and villages may be expected to rise up in good time, under such a policy, lining the borders of our canals as of our natural streams. Scenes of stirring industry will strike upon the eye flowing from various and subdivided labor, the aggregate results of all which will stand out in the advancing cultivation and embellishments of the earth, and extend prosperity and happiness of our People. This is the broad policy suited to a nation destined, by natural gifts, to reach the heights of civilization and power. Such a nation rejects, as too confined, the counsels that would limit her to the walks of agriculture, of commerce, or of manufactures, singly; seeing that her resources and aptitudes of all kinds, confer upon her the want of pre-eminence in each. Unless in this combination, we have beheld no state enjoy any other than an imperfect or transitory greatness.

Whilst the efficient encouragement of Manufactures is earnestly dwelt upon as conducive to the fiscal strength and general prosperity of the Union, the claims of Foreign Commerce press not less forcibly upon our attention. Each interest is alike entitled within proper bounds, to the fostering superintendence of the Legislative power. Amongst the expedients for augmenting the foreign trade of a country otherwise than in the exports of its own productions, none are believed to be more important than the warehouseing system. It was this system that greatly contributed to the commercial riches of some of the European States of the Middle Ages, and that is now enlarging the commercial dominion of nations of the present day. The situation of the U. States locally, the number, and position of their ports along so extended a line of coast; the tonnage of which they are actually in possession, with the commercial experience of their people, point them out as peculiarly fitted to derive advantage from this system and serve to recommend for it more liberal enactments than any of which it has yet been the subject. By our laws as they now stand, the merchant is compelled to re-export, within a twelve month, the foreign commodity which he has imported, or lose the benefit of drawing back the duty he has paid upon it to the Government. Hence he loses all opportunity, after this limit of time, of sending the commodity to seek foreign markets when the market at home may fail. The restriction put upon him in this respect; ought, it is conceived, to be done away, by extending the time during which he might exercise the right of re-exportation. It is not believed that the increased quantity of foreign merchandise, which such an alteration in the laws might be the means of bringing to the country, would interfere with the interests of home manufactures, under the protection claimed for the latter, and the guards with which they might be surrounded. The result might be expected to prove otherwise. At present, whenever a redundancy of foreign goods is seen in the country, as will happen occasionally in all trading countries, from the impossibility of adapting precisely the supply to the demand, the excess, if not sent abroad, within the year, is thrown upon the home market, at whatever reduction of price. This operates to the injury both of the home manufacturer and importer. By enlarging the time of re-exportation, with privilege of drawback, such excess, whenever existing, would be more likely to seek a vent in other countries and with improved chances of finding it profitable. More especially might the prospects of this trade in re-exportations be increased, if no transit duty existed on foreign merchandise passsing thro' our ports; the necessary charges being also kept at the lowest possible point. This is a policy which the wisest commercial nations have observed. An increased trade in re-exportations by increasing the carrying trade of the U. States, may be expected to increase their tonnage thus giving new activity to ship-building, so highly important and valuable a branch of manufactures to the country. The aspect of the times recommends to favourable consideration the alteration in the drawback system proposed. Political and commercial revolutions occurring all around us, remind us of the expediency of reviewing our own commercial laws, in points where these revolutions have affected or may affect, the operation of them. We have seen the principal part of this continent change the relations which it held to Europe. We have seen as the effect of this and other causes, ancient channels of trade deserted, colonial monopolies give way, and another system open. A new commercial era is begun of which this hemisphere is to be the principal scene. We have beheld the nations of Europe watching the course of these changes, and accommodating their policy, especially the ware-housing policy, to the new commercial wants and contingencies which have grown up, or are anticipated.—We have seen, above all, the leading commercial Power of Europe, whose wakeful eye is abroad throughout the commercial world, extend this very policy, under new advantageous facilities, to her insular positions in seas close to our borders. This she has done with the purpose not concealed, of availing herself of these changes, and of meeting, in the spirit of fair commercial competition similar measures which she naturally supposed would go into effect on the side of the U. States. No such measures have been taken by the U. States. In the midst of the changes adverted to, our own commercial legislation remains so far as any bearing upon this new commercial era is concerned, at the point where it stood more than five and twenty years ago. The single exception is in the act of the last session of Congress authorising the importation of brandy in casks of smaller size than was permitted by the act of 1799 an act obviously designed to improve our export trade in this article to the new State of this continent. The merchant, like the manufacturer, and other interests of the States, requires, at proper times, the assisting hand of legislation; regulation, in one form or other, being the great end of Government, and useful or baffling to individual enterprize, as it is wisely or improvidently exerted.

Should the wisdom of Congress deem an alteration in the laws, with a view to enlarge the privilege of re-exportation, expedient, an authority to build additional ware-houses in some of the principal seaport towns, would be a necessary adjunct to the alteration. The local accommodation for merchandize that must go into store, under the existing laws, is insufficient. Larger and better constructed edices are required, even for the present wants of our commerce, and would become altogether indispensable under an extension of the Warehousing System. A commerce which yields to the National Treasury a revenue of twenty millions of dollars a year, under a tariff far more moderate, even since 1824 than that which has marked the career of any great State of modern times, is entitled to adequate and liberal provisions for the machinery necessary for carrying it on. Its local establishments should have reference as well to the security of the revenue, as to the reasonable accommodation of the merchant, and the prompt despatch of business. It is probably not too much to affirm, that of the foreign merchandise which, under the present commercial code of the Union, is deposited in ware-houses more than one half is unduly exposed to depredation, to frauds, & to fire from the nature and insecurity of the present buildings. They are besides, too often situated in places remote from the Custom Houses, and other commercial establishments and inconvenient otherwise to the transaction of daily commercial business. Under circumstances such as these, the propriety of drawing the attention of Congress to the defects of the Warehousing System, seems sufficiently justifiable.

Where interests are multifarious, as in free, populous, and opulent communities must be the case, the hand of Government must be variously extended. Sometimes it is wisely applied to the effective regulation of some of these interests, and sometimes it becomes as necessary to lighten its pressure upon others. Not only is it recommended to lessen the restrictions which our laws have so long imposed upon the merchant; in an extensive branch of the foreign trade, but it is also conceived that there are articles entering into the list of our imports, the duties upon which it would be expedient to reduce. Amongst these, it is thought proper to mention Teas and Wines, as being prominent.

The use of Tea has become so general throughout the United States, as to rank almost as a necessary of life When to this we add, that there is no rival production at home to be fostered by lessening the amount of its importation, the duty upon it may safely be regarded as too high. Upon some of the varieties of the article, it considerably exceeds one hundred per cent. and is believed to be generally above the level which a true policy points out. A moderate reduction of the duty would lead to an increased consumption of the article, to an extent that, in all probability, would in the end, benefit, rather than injure the revenue. Its tendency would be to enlarge our trade in exports to China, a trade of progressive value, as our cottons and other articles of home production, (aside from specie) are more and more entering into it. It would cause more of the trade in teas to centre in our own ports, the present rate of duty driving our tea ships not unfrequently to seek their markets in Europe; not in the form of re-exportations, but in the direct voyage from China. It would also serve to diminish the risk of the United States ultimately losing any portion of a trade so valuable, through the policy and regulations of other nations.

The duty upon Wines, is also believed to be higher than a wise commercial and national policy dictates. The experience of our own, as well as other countries, has shown, that high duties upon wines do not prove beneficial to the revenue. General experience also shows, that the consumption of wine tends to diminish the use of ardent spirits. These are inducements for keeping the duties upon wines low. They are strengthened by the consideration, that, by lowering them, we shall increase, beneficially, our trade to the countries whence we obtain wines. Some of these countries are unable to take our productions, unless their wines be received as an equivalent. They are at the same time, prepared to take them, unrammelled by positive or virtual prohibitions. It seems but just that we should take freely the productions of nations that take ours freely. But, in point of fact, the present rates of our tariff favour most, in many and essential things, the productions of nations that favour ours least.—The rate of duty upon wines is not only, in many instances, very high, but very unequal, as regards the different descriptions of wines, and the countries producing them. The whole subject is thought to demand revision. Upon the superior wines of France, upon those of the Rhine, upon those, generally, of Spain, Portugal, the Italian States, and perhaps, some other countries, the duties it is believed might be advantageously brought down. The manufacture of wine, in the United States, does not, at this juncture, comprehend any such large interest, as to interpose serious objections to the policy recommended. The opinion may also be hazarded, that in proportion as the taste for wine comes to prevail over that for ardent spirits, under the encouragement of low duties upon those imported from abroad, will a better basis be laid for the prosecution, at a future day, of this branch of industry at home. Its prosecution might go on, hand in hand, with lower duties on foreign wines, even at the present time, a very small amount of capital being necessary to the production of wines at home.

A few remarks upon the state of the trade between the United States and the British Colonies, since the interdiction put upon it by Great Britain, will close the more general observations of this report.

Sufficient time has scarcely elapsed to enable us to determine, with precision, the course that this trade will ultimately take, as regards the amount of supplies, the channels through which they will chiefly pass, and the proportions of American and Brittish tonnage likely to be employed in their transportation. The British interdict of July, 1826 left an interval before its actual operation, which did not commence until the first of December of that year. The interval, it is understood, was improved in accumulating in the British West India ports supplies of provisions and other necessary articles from the U. States. Geographical causes, in their nature unchangeable, render it manifest that such supplies can be sent to the British Islands in more abundance, & on cheaper terms from the U. States, than from parts of the world more remote, or from climates less favourable to their production Nevertheless, the British Government, true to its invariable maxim of encouraging the industry of its own subjects in preference to that of foreigners, laid duties upon these supplies when coming from the United States, designed to countervail the greater cheapness with which they could be furnished over similar supplies from the Colonies of North America. It was to no purpose that Britain was urged, in protracted negociations, to forego this discrimination in favor of her own subjects. She steadily adhered to it, affording a fresh and signal example to other nations that, to protect the agricultural as the manufacturing labor of her own People, in whatever region situated, is a point in her policy, to which that of buying cheap from strangers knows when and how to yield. As the British North American Colonies were enabled, with the aid of these protecting duties, to furnish a portion of the supplies necessary to the British Islands, leaving the United States to furnish the residue; whilst the direct intercourse between the latter and those Islands remained open, it is not believed that the trade, under ordinary circumstances, will be materially effected in amount by the direct intercourse being closed. The continued necessity of drawing the major part of these supplies from the U States, was seen in the fact, of Quebec having been made an entre port for their flour and other articles, at an early day after the commencement of the interdict, and, afterwards, by an act of the British Parliament; which admits, duty free, various products of the U. States, into Canada, whence their exportations to the Islands is legalized, as of the proper products of Canada. It is by the establishment of such depots that the desire of Great Britain is also evinced to draw to herself a preponderating share of the carrying trade between her Islands and the U. States. It is through these circuitous channels: also, through New Brunswick and Nova Scotia; through the ports and Islands of intermediate Powers—as St. Jago de Cuba, Carthagena, St. Bartholomews, St. Eustatius, St. Thomas—that Jamaica, and the Windward Islands will chiefly derive from the U. States the supplies that they have heretofore had from them, and still continue to want. It is even known that biscuit has been shipped from Philadelphia for Jamaica, by way of Liverpool; and the flour of the U. States, under bonds in the ware houses of Liverpool, will, also, it is thought, find its way to consumption in the larger Islands of the British West Indies.

The Bahamas will probably experience most inconvenience from the course of this trade being forced into these indirect channels, from their relative inability to sustain the increased expense with which it will be burdened. This, we may presume will be shared by both parties the transhipments and other intermediate agencies necessary to keep the trade in activity, being to a certain extent, common to both. What will be the relative proportion of the tonnage of the two nations employed in carrying on this trade cannot at present be stated with confidence. It is not probable that that of the U. States will suffer, where the competition can be made equal; but it is possible that some diminution of their shipping may be eventually witnessed in favor of the flag of some third Power. It is the declared policy of Britain to produce such a result rather than allow, by any arrangements which she can control, the tonnage of a nation, already as large as that of the U. States, to become larger. Next to the augmentation of her own tonnage, it is the aim of the British laws to bring into employment the tonnage of the smaller maritime Powers of the world. If the anticipation be correct, that the British Islands will continue to receive indirectly, their supplies from the U. States without material diminution, the revenue will not suffer; since our exports through whatever channels they reach the Islands, may be expected to be followed by equivalent returns. It may be repeated, however, that further time is necessary for establishing definitive conclusions upon this and the other points adverted to. It is ascertained, that the imports into the U. States, from the whole of the West India Islands, for the first six months of the present year, falls below the average rate of those of the first six months of the three years preceding, including importations from the British Islands. On the other hand, our exports to the West Indies, during the first six months of 1827, have exceeded their avarage amount for the same period during the three years preceding, including exports to the British Islands.

The estimates, in detail of the revenue for the ensuing year, will now be given. For the general observations upon the home industry and foreign trade of the country that have been gone into, the indulgence of Congress is, with the utmost deference, solicited, under the motives that have prompted them. All financial plans must ultimately be dependent upon the flourishing state in which a sagacious and comprehensive policy may aid in placing the great agricultural, manufacturing and commercial interests of the nation; not in the spirit of partisanship for either, but by weighing co-equally the claims of each, and striving to secure the enriching results of all. It is in the anxious endeavor and humble hope of exhibiting them under this alliance to the correcting and controlling wisdom of Congress, that this Report has been prepared.

The gross amount of duties which accrued on imports and tonnage from the first of January to the thirteenth of September last, is estimated at twenty-one millions two hundred and twenty-six thousand dollars. The gross amount that will accrue for the last quarter of the year, is estimated at five millions seven hundred and seventy-four thousand, making an aggregate of twenty-seven millions for the entire year.

The debentures for drawbacks, issued during the three first quarters of the year, amounted to $3,381,942 79; and the amount outstanding on the 30th of September, was $2,516,966 45, of which $1,245,057 17, are chargeable upon the revenue of 1828

The amount of duty bonds in suit on the 30th of September last, was $4,136,812 64, which is more, by $123,922 88, than was in suit on the same day of the year preceding.

In estimating the probable amount of duties that will be received as compared with the gross amount secured on the importations of the year, the necessary deductions are to be made, not only for drawbacks, but for the expenses of collection, and various losses that may happen. Making what is judged to be a full allowance on all these accounts for the present occasion, the receipt from the customs, in 1828, are estimated at $20,372,000

Those from the sales of the public lands are estimated at	1,400,000
From bank dividends	420,000
And from all other sources	107,300
Making an aggregate of	$22,306,000

The expenditure for 1828 is estimated as follows, viz.

Civil, miscellaneous & diplomatic	$1,828,385 14	
Military service, including Fortifications, Ordinance Indian Department, Revolutionary and Military Pensions, arming the militia, and arrearages prior to the first of Jan. 1817,	4,332,091 05	
Naval service, including the gradual increase of the Navy,	3,786,649 25	
Public debt,	10,000,000 00	
Making a total of		19.947,125 44
And leaving an excess of receipts. for the year, over its expenditures, of		2,352,874 56

The estimate of revenue from all sources, for 1828, has been made $850,000 lower than that for 1827. This has been done to guard as far as possible, against unfavorable contingencies Nevertheless, the present estimate is formed on a larger amount of duties secured by bond on merchandise imported, than the estimate for 1827. Hence there is reason, from all present appearances, to believe that, although the estimate for 1828 is less than that for 1827, the receipts will prove greater.

All of which is most respectfully submitted.

RICHARD RUSH.

Treasury Department, December 8, 1827.

Twentieth Congress

FIRST SESSION.

In Senate.

MONDAY, Dec. 17.

Mr. WEBSTER appeared, was qualified, and took his seat.

Mr. SMITH, of Maryland, from the Committee of Finance, reported a bill to reduce, in part, the duty on imported Salt, without amendment.

Mr. DICKERSON introduced a bill for the distribution of a portion of the revenue of the United States among the several States; which was read, and ordered to a second reading.

On motion of Mr. SMITH, of Maryland, the bill to explain an act to reduce and fix the Military Peace Establishment of the United States, was considered as in Committee of the Whole; and after having been amended on motion of Mr. HARRISON, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

Mr. WOODBURY, submitted the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Committee on Commerce be instructed to inquire into the expediency of abolishing all discriminating duties on foreign vessels, and any merchandise imported therein, when they belong to nations who have adopted, or shall adopt, a similar rule concerning the vessels of the United States, and their cargoes.

The Senate then adjourned.

TUESDAY, Dec. 18.

Mr. Ruggles introduced a bill for the completion and repair of the Cumberland Road, from Bridgeport to Zanesville, in the State of Ohio, and for the survey of the same between Zanesville to the capital of the State of Missouri; which was read, and ordered to a second reading.

The resolution submitted yesterday by Mr. Woodbury, to consider the expediency of abolishing all discriminating duties on the vessels of foreign Powers extending the same measure to those of this country, was considered and agreed to.

The bill to provide for the distribution of a portion of the revenue of the United States among the several States of the Union, was read a second time.

Mr. Dickerson moved its reference to a Select committee of seven, remarking that the bill was one of great importance to every section of the country.

The motion to refer to a Select Committee was agreed to, and the following members appointed by ballott: Messrs. Dickerson, Branch, Rowan, Smith, of Md. Berrien, Tazewell, and Webster.

The bill to repeal, in part, the duty on imported salt, being taken up for consideration.

Mr. Smith of Md. said that, as one of the Setors from New York, (Mr. Van Buren,) and another member, (whose name we could not hear,) were not now in their seats, he would move to lay the bill on the table.

The motion was agreed; when

The Senate adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, Dec. 19.

Mr. Silsbee presented the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Committee on Finance be instructed to inquire into the expediency of reducing the present rate of duties on Wines and Teas.

On motion of Mr. Smith, of Md. the memorial of the merchants of Baltimore, presented last year, praying compensation for vessels sunk for the protection of the harbor, was referred to the Committee on Claims.

The bill to abolish imprisonment for debt, having been made the special order of the day for this day, was then taken up.

Mr. Johnson of Ky. addressed the Senate at considerable length.

The Senate adjourned.

THURSDAY, Dec. 20.

The resolution submitted yesterday by Mr. Silsbee, to inquire into the expediency of reducing the present duty on Wines and Teas, was considered and agreed to.

Mr. Smith, of Maryland, introduced a bill to revive, and continue in force, an act declaring the assent of Congress to an act of the Legislature of Maryland; which was read, and ordered to a second reading.

The bill to abolish Imprisonment for Debt was then taken up, and after several amendments, proposed by Messrs. Berrien, Eaton, Chandler, Hayne, Kane, and Ridgely, which were agreed to, Mr. Johnson, of Ky. moved that the bill be made the special order of the day for Tuesday next.

After some remarks from Messrs. Tazewell, Berrien, Johnson, of Ky. Van Buren and others,

Mr. Johnson moved the postponement of the Bill to Friday next, then to be made the order of the day; which was agreed to.

The Senate adjourned.

House of Representatives.

MONDAY, Dec. 17.

About sixty petitions and memorials were presented to-day; among them.

By Mr. Miller—Of Sugar Refiners of Baltimore, for increase of drawback on the exportation of that article.

By the same—Of John Blake, a Revolutionary officer, who entered the service in April, 1775, who was in the battles of Long Island, Harlaem Heights East Chester, White Plains, Trenton, Saratoga, Stillwater, Stoney Point, besides a score of skirmishes.

The following is an extract from the petition:

"When in the Jerseys, I captured several small detachments of refugees, which so irritated their commander, Col. Delanca, that he offered a reward of sixty guineas to any person who might bring me to him, dead or alive.—General Washington, then at Crumpond, in the State of New York, wrote me a letter to repair to his quarters. When I arrived, he says, 'Friend Blake, I have a pleasant tour of duty for you, which is to take a detachment of men, and make Col. Delanca, and his guard prisoners.—I have heard he has offered a bounty for you; therefore I give you this opportunity to retaliate.' Accordingly, the following night, I repaired to his quarters; but before I arrived I took two of his men who gave me the *countersign*, by which means I was enabled to take the sentinels without alarming the guard. I found the door bolted, and went to the window, where I saw several officers playing at cards, one of whom inquired *What was trumps?* I immediately answered, *Black Jack, of the fifth Regiment?* at the same time ordering the window broken. The guard of 36 men and 6 officers were made prisoners, but the Colonel was absent and escaped.

"I have at last attained to my 74th year, without receiving the compensation due for my services, and have lately had the misfortune of having one of my arms broken; yet I am under the necessity, even debilitated and disabled as I am, of *laboring* to support life. But soon will the vital spark expire, and free my country from my pressing importunities. Shall Congress be reproached with partiality? Why, then, do some, who served only nine months, receive their pensions as many years, whilst others, because they have, by persevering industry, obtained a scanty pittance, are remanded from their country's generosity? I sincerely hope that, while she so liberally rewards meritorious foreigners, who entered the service at the eleventh hour, she will not be unmindful of the freeborn sons of America, who bore the heat and burthen of the day. My countrymen, I reckon upon your justice and generosity.

The petition was referred to the Committee on Pensions.

NAVIGATION OF THE ST. LAWRENCE.

The following resolution submitted by Mr. Barnard, on the 14th ult. was taken up.

"*Resolved*, That the President of the United States be requested to communicate to this House, if not, in his opinion, incompatible with the public interest, the correspondence of this Government with that of Great Britain, relative to the free navigation of the River St. Lawrence."

And the said resolve was agreed to.

The Speaker laid before the House the following communication:

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, 4th Dec. 1827.

Sir: In pursuance of a resolution of the House of Representatives at their last session, requiring the Postmaster General to ascertain and transmit to them, at the present session, the obstruction that exist on the great mail route from Natchez to New-Orleans, by the Homochitte Swamp, and the probable expense of removing them, I have the honor to submit the information desired, and to suggest that the safety of the mail is often jeopardized, at certain seasons of the year, in crossing the swamps.

With great respect, I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN M'LEAN.

Hon. A. STEVENSON,

Speaker of the House of Representatives:

[The information referred to in this communication is contained in letters from Jas Green and Henry W. Huntington, Stephen Duncan and C. C. West. The expense of removing the obstructions is estimated at from 10 to 15 thousand dollars.]

These papers were referred to the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads.

The House then adjourned.

TUESDAY, Dec. 18.

The following petitions were presented:—

By Mr. Mitchell, of Pa.—Of the President and Directors of the Milesburg & Smithport Turnpike Road Company, for a subscription on the part of the United States

By Mr. Martin—Of citizens of the town of Columbia, in South Carolina, against an increase of the tariff

OCCUPATION OF THE NORTH WEST COAST.

Mr. Floyd, from the Committee appointed on the subject, reported a bill to authorize the occupation of the Oregon [Columbia] river; which was twice read, and committed to the Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union.

The House adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, Dec. 19.

About twenty petitions were presented this day;

All which were referred to the appropriate Committees.

Mr. Storrs rose for the purpose of making a motion in relation to a bill which had been introduced on leave, by a gentleman from Maryland, (Mr. LITTLE) in reference to the apportionment of representation under the next census. That bill had been twice read, and referred to a Committee of the Whole House. He was desirous of giving it some other disposition than such as would occasion it to have its first discussion in a Committee of the Whole. He therefore moved that the Committee of the Whole be discharged from its consideration, & that it go to a Select Committee. Should this motion prevail, he was desirous that the Select Committee should consist of a member from each State in the Union, as the subject was one in which all the States were equally interested.

The motion prevailed, and a Select Committee was ordered, to consist of 24 members.

United States' Stock in the Bank of the United States.

Mr. P. P. Barbour gave notice that he would, on to morrow, call up the consideration of the resolution he had had the honor of submitting a few days since, on the subject of the sale of Stock in the Bank of the U. States, now held by the Government. He was induced to desire to have that resolution taken up thus early, by some information he had received, which induced him to believe it ought to be discussed, and disposed of with as little delay as possible. And then the House adjourned.

THURSDAY, Dec. 20.

The following gentlemen compose the Committee for apportionment of Representatives under the *fifth* census:

Messrs. Storrs, Little, Anderson, of Maine, Crowninshield, Bartlett, Pearce, Swift, Ingersoll, Thompson, of N. Jersey, Johns, Buchanan, Roane, Holmes, Drayton, Thompson, of Geo. Daniel, Mitchell, of Ten. Wright, of Ohio, Livingston, Blake, Haile, Duncan, M'Kee, Bates, of Missouri.

Among the petitions presented to-day we noticed the following:

By Mr. Drayton, of the Charleston Chamber of Commerce, for the adoption of some mode

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