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THE AMERICAN CONGRESS.

Papers connected with the refusal of Prince Bismarck to transmit the resolutions of the House of Representatives regarding the late Dr. Lasker, to the German Parliament have been laid before the House. Mr. Frelinghuysen, Secretary of State, in his last letter to Mr. Sargent, the American Minister in Berlin, gives strong assurances that the resolutions were nothing beyond what they purported to be—an expression of sympathy with the corresponding branch of the Government of a friendly nation. Attention is called to the history of the United States, to show that it is a nation that has never obtruded upon other nations the sound political principles upon which it is founded. He says the convictions of Prince Bismarck and his embarrassment over the resolutions are matters affecting His Excellency alone, and the only remark he (Mr. Frelinghuysen) would make was that it did not occur to him how the transmission of the resolutions would have involved the endorsement of the political views of Herr Lasker. The Secretary's letter concludes: "The non-transmission of the resolution officially, as it was intended and claimed on its face to be of friendly intent, while a matter of regret is not one of concern to either branch of the Government of the United States." In this connection we notice that Prince Bismarck, upon taking his place in the Reichstag the other day for the first time this session, made a speech justifying his refusal to receive the Lasker resolution. He said that while he recognized the excellent intentions of the United States Congress he could not harness himself to the triumphal car of the opposition party of Germany by giving national sanction to the eulogium contained in the American resolution. The Berlin newspapers continue to make coarse attacks upon Mr. Sargent, the American Minister, some accusing him of intimacy with Herr Bunsen, an enemy of Prince Bismarck, and the diplomatists of other countries are indignant at their American friend's disgraceful treatment.

In spite of the opposition of certain "interests" it is gratifying to report that the Senate has come one large vote nearer free trade in ratifying the treaty with Mexico by 41 to 20.

Mr. Edmunds has introduced a bill in the Senate to reserve and withdraw from settlement, occupancy or sale of a tract of about 6,900 square miles in the territory of Montana, and set it apart forever as a national forest reservation for the preservation of natural forest and the protection of the head waters and tributaries of the Columbia and Missouri Rivers. It is to be hoped if this measure passes that it will not be allowed to be made an excuse for clearing off every clump of trees in sight of those rivers outside of the reservation at their heads.

Reports from both the majority and minority of the ways and means committee on the Morrison tariff bill were submitted to

the House, the former being favorable and the other contrary. A reduction of \$31,000,000 would be made in the revenue by the bill upon the basis of last year's imports. By way of giving a reason for rejecting the bill the minority report adduces as a noteworthy fact that not a single interest in the United States has requested or demanded the reduction. This is charmingly childlike and bland, and truly delightful in its estimate of corresponding innocence in the public, not to mention the balance of Congress, by implying that few if any know that in the question at issue it is the so-called "interests" of the nation which the tariff reformers desire specially to shear of advantages that high customs taxation gives them at the expense of the whole people.

The House committee on railways and canals reported favorably on a bill to grant a million dollars annually for keeping in repair and gradually enlarging the Erie Canal. Its value as a protection to the people against railway combination and its powerful rival in the Canadian canal system are the grounds of the committee's favor to the Erie Canal.

Before the House committee on territories Delegate Cain of Utah, submitted statistics showing the material progress of Utah territory. He complained of the conduct of the Governor of Utah and those under him, who did not desire to stop polygamy but to bring about conflicts with the people in order to plunder them. He said the majority of the people of the territory were not Mormons and had no ill-feeling against those who were.

THE DOMINION PARLIAMENT.

A sharp and rather interesting discussion took place on the 11th, upon a motion made by Mr. Mulock for copies of letters of complaint against Major General Luard, late commander of the Canadian militia. Colonel Luard, although always ready to praise the militia where they showed excellence, was very severe in condemning slovenliness and looseness in discipline. At different times an outcry was raised against him by a portion of the press for having exasperated prominent Canadian citizens who held commands under him in the force. These outbursts at length culminated in a demand for the General's removal which was made by Colonel Williams, a member of Parliament supporting the Government. The reason given was insulting remarks made to Colonel Williams in particular and Canadian parliamentarians in general during and after a regimental review at Cobourg, Ontario. Some of the members, in the debate in question, argued that, with all his severity, General Luard was the kind of man at present needed at the head of the citizen soldiers of this young nation. Others, including the Premier, justified Colonel Williams in his course of standing up for the dignity of Canadian statesmen when it was aspersed by the commander and one of his staff, a gentleman of foreign extraction, who said at the Cobourg banquet that the opinion of members of the House of Commons on military matters was not worth ten cents. After ample discussion the motion for papers was

carried, and another debate is expected when they are brought down.

Very many petitions, including one from Archbishop Lynch, of Toronto, and some of his clergy, were presented in favor of making the Sunday laws stricter.

An interesting debate took place on the changes proposed in the tariff. Sir Richard Cartwright, who led an attack upon protective duties, gave a calculation to show that the new proposals were designed to afford employment at home to about six hundred additional men at a cost to the country of three hundred thousand dollars a year. Sir Leonard Tilley, Finance Minister, in reply, endeavored to show that goods made in the country by virtue of protection were no dearer now than they would be if the lower tariff of former years had continued. Mr. McMullin argued that grain for feeding stock should be admitted free. He thought the farmers had as much right to this concession as the manufacturers of spirituous liquors had to a rebate of duty upon corn made into liquor for export.

An objection was raised by Mr. Cameron to Mr. Abbott moving the House of Commons into Committee on a bill to confirm the lease of the Ontario & Quebec Railway to the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, on the ground that the mover was the paid solicitor of the latter corporation and therefore had no right to promote its bill in Parliament. The Speaker ruled that although the member could not vote on the bill he could move it in the House. This decision, however, he reversed the next day, saying that upon reading up authorities he had found Mr. Cameron was right.

Forestry came before the House upon a motion for correspondence relating to the Forestry Exhibition in Edinburgh in August next, and several members urged the importance of Canada being represented on that occasion by a creditable exhibit of the products of her forests.

A committee of the House was granted to examine the model of an improved ballot box invented by Mr. J. D. E. Myraud, of Quebec.

In answer to a question, Sir Alexander Campbell, in the Senate, said that the Government would not make any further investigation as to the feasibility of the Hudson Bay commercial route, but would subsidize any enterprise in that connection.

It is said the Government has given encouragement to the project of the most direct line of railway that can be opened up between Quebec and Maritime Provinces ports.

Upon a point of order as to the right of Dr. Fortin to have his vote counted when he was in the gallery when the question was put, the Speaker decided that as he had heard the question put his vote could be counted. It was then pointed out that the member had left his seat after the question was put, and the Speaker ruled that by so doing he had spoiled his vote. Mr. Blake pointed out that, according to the Speaker's decision, a member could speak and vote from the galleries. The Premier, whose contention that the galleries were part of the House seems to have induced this ex-

traordinary ruling, did not care to have the matter left in such an inconvenient position, and the Speaker therefore amended his decision so that in future the galleries would be held as part of the House with the exception of for speaking or voting.

A GREAT BATTLE.

As anticipated in our latest accounts last week a great battle took place near Suakim in the Soudan on Thursday. It was between the British forces under General Graham and hordes of Arabs under Osman Digna. All through the previous night the British camp was disturbed with almost harmless firing by the enemy upon their outposts. About daybreak some field pieces of artillery were turned upon the skirmishing rebels, silencing their firing. Then the order was given to advance, and in a massive square, with the commander and staff and supplies in the centre, the British troops moved on to battle. They marched on in silence for nearly half a mile, when suddenly fierce firing began from covered positions in front. Although the men began to fall the General urged on the force without giving orders to return the fire, and forward they went as coolly as if upon holiday parade. Under a hotter and increasing fire, with the enemy becoming more numerous on all sides every moment, the order to begin firing was given the British. Then a fearful slaughter began, the rebels being swept away as by a whirlwind. But never was greater bravery shown than by these fierce sons of the desert. When repulsed they did not run, but walked backward slowly, fighting every inch of the way. Once a dense mass of them, with shields and spears, hurled themselves madly upon the bayonets of the Sixty-fifth Regiment, breaking the line and surrounding with a rapid sweep that division of the second brigade. They captured all the machine guns belonging to the brigade, and it cost the latter two hours of desperate fighting to recover the guns and beat its way back to make connection with the first brigade. After three hours of fighting the rebels were driven beyond their camp, and General Graham ordered a halt. About four thousand British troops were engaged, and nearly ten thousand Arabs. The British loss was about a hundred killed and a hundred and fifty wounded, and that of the enemy from two to three thousand killed. Somewhat diverging reports have come regarding the results and the value of the British victory. Balancing these it does not seem as if the victory was sufficiently complete to destroy the faith of the tribes in the ultimate success of the rebel cause. Osman Digna is reported as striving to rally the Arabs under the religious standard, telling them that Mahomet was often beaten but came out victorious in the end. He has intimated his intention of renewing the fight in a few days. A reconnoitring force of the British is entrenched at Handoub. Osman Digna has returned to the neighborhood of his former encampment with two thousand followers, and his scouts are near Handoub with orders to shoot all stragglers.