Philadelphia North American and United States Gazette, Monday Morning, February 18, 1861

American and Gazette.

PHILADELPHIA:

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18 1861.

THE WAREHOUSING FEATURE OF THE TARIFF.

The proceedings of Saturday, at Washington, indicate the sacrifice of the warehousing feature of the pending Tariff bill, and that, so far as the Senate is concerned, the present bill cannot succeed unless the present warehouse system is retained. The commercial representation of New York city demands this course, and Mr. Seward becomes the champion of that demand, thus deciding the action of the nearly equally divided Senate, and declaring that we must take what we can get and be contented.

The greater principles of the bill will be preserved, however, if this protection against excessive imports is lost. Specific duties constitute one great principle, and these we secure as far as is practicable in any revenue system. The next great thing accomplished is a restoration to the old policy as to making protection a distinctive and leading rule in the levying of duties at all; but both these great essentials are seriously weakened in actual operation by the unlimited warehousing of unsold foreign goods which the present law permits, and which New York city insists on retaining. Unlimited warehousing—for the three years now permitted is equivalent to storing without limit of time—is supposed to be greatly to the advantage of New York, by inviting there all the surplus stocks of foreign manufactures, to be held as long as the owners choose over the heads of regular importers, and finally to be thrown on the market, or be taken out of the country again.

This privilege is worth a handsome per centage on the stocks of all the great manufacturers of dry goods for the American market. It takes at least five per cent. off the duty supposed to be levied, the duty levied in name, but paid when the importer chooses. It enables hundreds to act as importers who have not a dollar of capital, withdrawing the goods held in store when sold by sample, and not before. It enables the conductors of the import trade to avoid the payment of taxes, to avoid the necessity of building or renting stores, and gene rally to get rid of a great deal of the trouble that a solvent merchant owning real property always encounters. This release of the mercantile character from its usual responsibilities is a great advantage to that vast congregation of agents which makes up New York city, and they have made themselves felt at Washington so much as to carry their point.

It was said by a New York commercial journal, a few days since, that the limitation of the warehousing system to ninety days, as proposed in this bill, would distribute the present import trade of New York among half a dozen smaller cities, and thus detract greatly from its metropolitan supremacy. This was the belief of the representatives of that city who have worked so hard at Washington. If they are right the consequence is somewhat humiliating to that city, for the question is simply between legitimate importation by responsible merchants and illegitimate importation by agents who sell the drugs of foreign manufacture. We believe other cities would have a greater share of the import trade it false invoices and the employment of means which cost nothing were to be hereafter prohibited; but it is also true that the better class of New York merchants would gain as much as we would. It is probable that we would see little time at least, check the false swearing on invoices which rumor credits to New York importation; but we cannot, it appears, prevent New York from leading the world in transacting a large import trade without capital or credit, and much after the peddlers' fashion; not that all who avail themselves of its benefits are dishonest, but that they can succeed without paying duties are of this low mercantile grade, but that the business can as easily be done by these as by any others, and is actually so done to a very great extent.

It is proved that the warehouses are used for importations to be sold here, and not for goods to be exported, by the value sent abroad from warehouses, which value averages about one-fifth of the total export of goods of foreign origin. For the last fiscal year reported on, this value was about $4,380,000; so much only out of over twenty hundred millions of imports originally brought here, being taken back where they came from, or taken to other foreign countries for sale. The warehouses are used to hold goods for our own market, to cheapen importation to the foreign manufacturer, and thus to compete on better grounds with our own productions. This policy is worth five to ten on the average of all dry goods, as we have said, and by so much it practically reduces the protective force of the tariff.

We will take what we can get, however. If New York city demands this sacrifice now, and by so much secures the monopoly of the import trade, perhaps we can do that interest an equivalent good turn on some other point. Let us try a little rigidity on the principle of specific duties, even at the cost of a little otherwise unnecessary trouble in measuring square yards, and in weighing goods by the pound. There ought to be some check to the sluice-like rush of imports into the country at New York, in a way that nobody can define, and to the selling of goods there which have paid but half duty, or are sent in there with no duties paid.

The loss of the warehousing clause is to be regretted on other grounds also, particularly on account of the revenues the goods now in store ought, within a reasonable time, to be made to yield for the nation's use, instead of raising money by loan. Ten millions of dollars would not more than pay the dues actually accruing to the government from goods now in store, and which should and might be withdrawn within three months. But the army of agents who hold them can better afford to use a little money at Washington now than to pay it much of what they owe the United States. Hence we must place a loan under unfavorable circumstances to fill the gap caused by the giant robberies of the present Administration, and the democratic Senate and Mr. Seward vote the warehousing limitation out of the Tariff bill we hope still to get through.

South Jersey Railways.

Up to this period very little has been known in Philadelphia of the West Jersey Railroad, except as conducting to form a line to Cape May. Nevertheless it has a distinct purpose and existence. From Camden to Woodbury the line is really nothing more than an integral part of the Cape May route; and, as it occupies the bed of the old railroad between these two points, required no great amount of enterprise to put it in working order. From Woodbury the West Jersey road goes to Bridgeton via Glassboro', and from the latter town to Camden is road will be used by the Millville and Glassboro' road as a through route to Philadelphia. The work between Woodbury and Glassboro' is far advanced. It involves some deep cuts and heavy embankments. The bridge over Mantua creek is 32 feet high. At the Bridgeton end of the line the first rails have been laid, and the connection with the Millville road will be completed by the 1st of April. The road will, probably, celebrate the opening of the road from Camden to Bridgeton on May day. When that event takes place a large section of south Jersey will be opened up to our capital and enterprise. A branch of the road to Salem will also be probably made during the year, and this, with the Cape May extension of the Millville road, will doubtless infuse new energy into that whole section of country.

THE PRESIDENT ELECT.—The committee of City Councils tendered to Mr. Lincoln, at Cleveland, a formal invitation to visit this city. The following is the Speaker's reply:

CLEVELAND, O., Feb. 15th, 1861.

Gentlemen:—I have to day received the invitation you extend to me on behalf of the Select and Common Councils of the City of Philadelphia, to visit the same and partake of its hospitalities while on my way to the federal capital.

I accept with much gratitude the proferred honor, and hope to arrive in your city on Thursday, the 21st instant, at 4 o'clock P. M.

Your obt'servt, A. LINCOLN.

Wm. P. Hacker, Esq., chairman, and members of the committee.

RARE AND VALUABLE LONDON BOOKS.—Thomas & Sons sell, on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, this week, a large and elegant collection of books, *also arranged for examination, with catalogues.*

VALUABLE REAL ESTATE AND STOCKS, to-morrow, at the Exchange. *See catalogues and advertisements of both sales.*

We have received contributions to the Kansas fund from

H. C. Kellogg,	$10
S. M. L.,	1
Friend of Kansas,	10

THE EDITORIAL CONVENTION which was to have met at Lancaster on Wednesday, the 20th instant, has been postponed until further notice.

Summary of the Daily Intelligence.

In the United States Senate, on Saturday last, the vote excusing Mr. Thompson from serving on the Naval Committee was, by the unanimous request of that committee reconsidered and the excuse withdrawn. 10,000 additional copies of the Agricultural Report of the Patent Office were ordered to be printed. The bill providing for the territorial organization of Decotah and Nevada were discussed. The tariff bill was taken up and Mr. Seward's amendment in regard to the warehousing system, and which leaves that system as it is now, was passed. All relating to the warehousing was then struck out. After some further debate the Senate adjourned. In the House several memorials and petitions were presented, and about twenty bills on the private calender were passed. The Committee of Conference on the Deficiency bill have agreed upon a compromise. The Senate bill to appoint commissioners to make arrangements in regard to settling the claims of our citizens against the governments of Costa Rica and New Grenada was passed. In the evening session speeches were made by several gentlemen, after which the House adjourned.

The State Senate was not in session on Saturday. In the House, the Sunbury and Erie bill was passed, and also was the bill for the commutation of the tonnage duties on the Pennsylvania Railroad.

In the State Convention, on Saturday, numerous resolutions were introduced relative to national affairs. They represented the various sentiments of the people respecting the difficulty, but, with one or two exceptions, pledged Virginia for the Union, while they strenuously opposed any attempt at coercion. They were referred. Mr. Moore, of Rockbridge, opposed hasty action. He would not be driven by the north, nor dragged by the cotton States, who had acted without consulting Virginia. He opposed coercion, but if the seceded States choose to assault the forts, let them take the consequences. Mr. Carlisle contended that the government had never yet attempted to coerce the south.

The Peace Convention at Washington, on Saturday, commenced debate on the plan of adjustment adopted by the Committee. Mr. Baldwin, of Connecticut, moved to substitute his proposition for a National Convention in lieu of the Committee's plan. Mr. Guthrie opposed the motion, and urged the Convention to take immediate action. There was considerable difference of opinion respecting the meaning of the plan of adjustment as regards the territorial question, whether it applied to existing territory only, or also to that to be hereafter acquired. Mr. Beverly Johnson, of Maryland, said he should move an amendment so as to exclude future acquisitions of territory from the operations of the compromise. The debate did not terminate till 3 o'clock, when the Convention adjourned till Monday.

Mr. Lincoln reached Buffalo on Saturday afternoon. At several of the stations on the road brief addresses were interchanged between the citizens of the towns and Mr. Lincoln. He addressed the citizens of Buffalo at some length.

The steamship Africa arrived at New York yesterday, with European advices to the 2d inst. Queen Victoria was to have opened the Parliament on the 5th, and the Emperor was to have opened the French Legislature on the 4th. Nothing had been heard in regard to the movements of General Garibaldi. The remainder of the paragraphs are unimportant.

The court martial convened in the case of Commander Walke, of the storeship Supply, and who was charged with disobedience of orders, met again at New York, on Saturday morning, but adjourned in consequence of the non-arrival of Commander Armstrong, who was to be a witness on the part of the government.

A final decision in the Anderson fugitive slave case was given at Toronto on Saturday. The Court sustained the decision of the Court of the Queen's Bench on the question of law, and was unanimous in discharging the prisoner on a technicality.

The steamship Zulu, from Kingston, Jamaica, with dates to the 6th inst., arrived at New York, on Saturday. The news is unimportant. Prince Alfred, Queen Victoria's "sailor son," was expected there, and preparations were making to receive him commensurate with the occasion. The Legislature, which had adjourned, had reassembled, and was at work. The steamer for Santiago de Cuba had been discontinued. It did not pay.

The Philadelphia breadstuffs market was steady and rather more active on Saturday. Ashes, grain and provisions were quiet and dull and unsettled. In seeds there was a fair demand noticeable for most kinds, and prices were well maintained. No change in whisky. The stock market opened dull, with a moderate business to note in good dividend paying securities, at full prices. Reading Railroad shares fluctuated somewhat during the day, and left off nearly steady. For Pennsylvania Railroad securities prices were better. No change in money matters, and but little paper passing outside the banks.

In one of our exchanges appears a statement from a correspondent in Japan, that "Tommy" is dead. According to the report of the Japanese, the cause of the death was *delirium tremens*, a disease which, we believe, he introduced to that country. The foreign residents, however, doubted this substantiated and *pro forma*. Although this is not a regular impeachment, yet it is equivalent to it. Our State Constitution provides two modes for their removal; one is a regular impeachment by the House and an arraignment of them before the bar of the Senate, and the other by an address voted by two-thirds of the Legislature to the Governor, who shall thereupon remove them. This address may be voted "for any reasonable cause not sufficient for impeachment."

A good story is told of Governor McKean in connection with a similar event. The language of the old State Constitution of 1790 was the Governor "may remove" A committee of the Legislature waited upon him to inform him that two-thirds of the lower House had voted the removal of a certain judge. The Governor seemed to hesitate. They urged that two-thirds was the "law of the case," and evidently that he understood it to mean "must," and construed them indignantly out of the Executive chamber.

There has been but one instance in our State history of the impeachment of the judges of the supreme tribunal, and that took place in 1805. Three of the judges were arraigned, and two of them were found guilty. Breckinridge, the celebrated eccentric wit, and the author of "Modern Chivalry," in his arrangement upon the charge of pronouncing an illegal and corrupt decision in the case of a burgue selling property of Philadelphia. A Mr. Holleau was the chief manager appointed on the part of the House. Mr. Binney (father), Cesar Rodney and Alexander J. Dallas figured as counsel in the case, either for the State or the judges. It was a very interesting legal affair. My recollection is that a majority but not two thirds of the Senate, pronounced against them.

That is proper to be the same object the said judges, by the use of extraordinary process directed from the City of Philadelphia to the said Sheriff of Lancaster, citizens of said counties, as well by their own public declarations upon the bench, as by their acts, in the purpose of withdrawing said cases from the jurisdiction of the appropriate local tribunals, demonstrating their whole judicial bias in favor of the City of Philadelphia, and depriving the citizen in a great public and political case, which involves his very liberties, of the constitutional right of a trial by a jury of the vicinage."

The petition then represents the Sheriff as not only regard the securities of the stock jobber as property and not the reality, and that they favor the interests of foreign creditors even to the expense of the domestic; that their removal to Philadelphia has identified them with the commercial and financial interests of the city, and therefore has brought their personal interests into antagonism with those solely the free holding citizens of the rural districts; that their decisions have been so fluctuating that the most learned lawyers can find no certain guide upon the law of title. It closes with a prayer for the removal. The petition concludes with a very strong signature. But, signed by thousands upon thousands of names, will be prevailed.

I have dwelt the more particularly upon this matter, because it will soon assume very large proportions in the public eye.

I have been permitted to read, in manuscript, a large and fine speech to be delivered by Mr Pillsbury, the Speaker of the Senate, upon the occasion of the celebration on next Friday. I think it will be very safely say that it is a most creditable production, both in vigor of thought and elegance of style. The public will certainly not be disappointed in it. MOUNTAINS.

BY MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH,

FOR THE N. AMERICAN & U. S. GAZETTE.

Special Correspondence of N. Amer. and U. S. Gazette.

From Washington.

Washington, Feb. 16.—The events and prospects of the past day or two leave little hope that the Peace Convention will be able to heal the breach that exists in the nation. There is but little time left in that body favorable to a compromise that will meet the wants of the case—and even if there were, the anti-compromise Republicans in Congress are strong enough to defeat any project that may be presented. The conference will undoubtedly break up about the 20th, leaving the responsibility with Congress and the Republican Administration.

The Virginia Commissioners express great fears of their State when it is finally ascertained that the efforts of the conference have failed. Indeed, it is not at all unlikely that the State, in that event, will cast her fortunes with the southern confederacy.

The force bill will meet with great opposition, but it is thought that it will eventually pass.

The North Carolina Convention will be largely composed of Union men. A.

Letter from Liverpool.

Per Africa. LIVERPOOL, Feb. 2, 1861.—Evening.—Cotton is rather more inquired for, the shipments of gold to America, causing an expectation of an early return to a more satisfactory condition of the money market, there is a renewal of activity in cotton, and with sales to day of 12,000 bales, prices are decidedly against buyers, amounting, in many cases, to an advance of 1-16 @ 1/8 on the better descriptions, upon yesterday's quotations. All other articles remain unchanged from latest circular quotations.

Money active, in preparation for the quarter payments; rates are unaltered.

Consols advanced to-day to 92¼, and closed firm.

The Virginia State Convention.

Richmond, Feb. 16.—In the Convention to-day, Mr. Marr, introduced a series of resolutions declaring that Virginia cherishes a devoted attachment to the Union, and that she will make any sacrifice compatiest with honor to restore and maintain it; but declaring opposition to coercion, and a determination not to submit to any administration of the government in which her rights are assailed, or not fully protected, and if the Union cannot be restored in any other manner than by