CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE FORTY-NINTH CONGRESS.

SPECIAL SESSION OF THE SENATE.

SENATE.

WEDNESDAY, March 4, 1885.

Hon. THOMAS A. HENRIDICKS, Vice-President of the United States, having taken the oath of office at the close of the last regular session of the Forty-eighth Congress, took the chair.

PRAYER.

Rev. E. D. HUNTLEY, D.D., Chaplain to the Senate, offered the following prayer:

Thou who art the same yesterday, to-day, and forever, we are grateful for another opportunity of appearing before Thee in the attitude of humble worship, and though we tarry but a moment in Thy presence, it shall suffice to quicken our consciences and to remind us that for the performance of all public as well as of all private duties we are amenable to Thee.

We come to thank Thee for the mercies of the past and to implore the continuance of Thine all-favoring providence.

We come to ask Thy blessing upon the retiring President of these United States and upon him whose presidency of this Senate has added steadiness and safety to its legislation and maintained impartially the rights and privileges of all its members. And though these officers transfer their responsibilities to other hands, we ask that they may never cease to be the objects of Thy care and the recipients of Thy godly favor.

We ask Thy blessing upon him who is about to be inducted into the high office of President of this Republic. May His life and health be precious in Thy sight. May He receive the hearty, honest, and ungrudged support of all good citizens; and may He, together with those who shall be constituted his advisers, be so under the direction of Thy Holy Spirit, that his administration shall prove a signal blessing to this nation and so a blessing to the world.

Be Thou with him who is to preside over the deliberations of this body, the Vice-President of the United States. As the eyes of the servants look unto the hand of their masters, so may his eyes look unto the Lord his God. May he be faithful to his trust, and may he be supplied with wisdom from on high for the discharge of all his duties.

We ask Thy special blessing upon those who for years have been honorable members of this Senate, and who this day retire from the public service appertaining to this body. May the years which remain to them be crowned with tokens of Thy love. May goodness and mercy follow them all the days of their life. And may those who come to take their places be men who, fearing the Lord and working righteousness, shall be acceptable to Thee.

Regard in mercy all who occupy advisory, legislative, or judicial relations to the Government. Dispose their hearts to keep Thy law, and may they so direct in public matters that all nations shall be constrained to recognize us as a happy and prosperous people, and to ascribe our happiness and our prosperity to the readiness with which we yield ourselves to Thy suggestions and the promptness with which we follow Thy commands.

Our petition is before Thee, Lord, and we humbly pray that Thou wilt answer it according to Thy riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Amen.

The VICE-PRESIDENT. Senators, in entering upon the duties of the office to which I have been chosen, may I express the hope and the desire that none will fail to appreciate the duty, and that none will fail to recognize the responsibility.

As their names were called the respective Senators-elect came forward, and the oath prescribed by law was administered to them.

The Chief Clerk called the names of—

James Donald Cameron, of the State of Pennsylvania.
James B. Eastis, of the State of Louisiana.
John P. Jones, of the State of Nevada.
Justin S. Morrill, of the State of Vermont.

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The Chief Clerk called the names of—

Henry B. Payne, of the State of Ohio.
Ovville H. Platt, of the State of Connecticut.
James L. Pugh, of the State of Alabama.
John C. Spooner, of the State of Wisconsin.

As their names were called the respective Senators-elect came forward, and the oath prescribed by law was administered to them.

The Chief Clerk called the names of—

Leland Stanford, of the State of California.
Henry M. Teller, of the State of Colorado.
Zebulon B. Vance, of the State of North Carolina.
George G. Vest, of the State of Missouri.
This impressive ceremony adds little to the solemn sense of responsi-
bility which I continue to owe to the people of the land; nothing can relieve me from anxiety lost by any act of mine
their interests may suffer, and nothing is needed to strengthen my reso-
lution to engage every faculty and effort in the promotion of their wel-
fare.

Amid the din of party strife the people's choice was made; but its
attendant circumstances have demonstrated anew the strength and
stability of the government by the people, In each succeeding
example clearly appears that our democratic principle needs no apology, and
that in its fearless and faithful application is to be found the surest

guarance of good government.

To-day the executive branch of the Government is transferred to new
keeping. But this is still the Government of all the people, and it
should be none the less an object of their affectionate solicitude. At
this hour the animosities of political strife, the bitterness of partisan
defeat, and the exultation of partisan triumph should be supplanted by
an ungrudging acquaintance in the popular will, and a sober, conscient-
ious performance for the general weal. Moreover, if, as we truly believe,
we cheerfully and honestly abandon all sectional prejudice and distrust,
and determine, with many confidence in one another, to work out har-
moniously the achievements of our national destiny, we shall deserve
to realize all the benefits which our happy form of government can
bestow.

By the Father of his Country our Constitution was commended for
adoption as "the result of a spirit of amity and mutual concession." In
that same spirit it should be administered, in order to promote the
lasting welfare of the country, and to secure the full measure of its
priceless benefits to us and to those who will succeed to the blessings of
our national life. The large variety of diverse and competing interests
subject to Federal control, persistently seeking the recognition of their
claims, need give us no fear that "the greatest good to the greatest
number" will fail to be accomplished if in the halls of national legis-
lation that spirit of amity and mutual concession shall prevail in
which the Constitution had its birth. If this involves the surrender or
postponement of private interests and the abandonment of local ad-
advantages, compensation will be found in the assurance that thus
the common interest is subserved and the general welfare advanced.

In the discharge of my official duty I shall endeavor to be guided by
a just and unstrained construction of the Constitution, a careful observ-
ance of all its provisions, and with the sanction of my fellow Senators
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The people entitled to admission on the floor of the Senate Chamber
having been admitted to the places reserved for them, the President,
Hon. GROVER CLEVELAND, of New York, entered the Senate Chamber,
accompanied by the late President, Hon. CHESTER A. ARTHUR, and Mr. MI-
DANSON, Mr. R. F. R. W. and Eugene Hale.

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the common interest is subserved and the general welfare advanced.
The genius of our institutions, the needs of our people in their home life, and the attention which is demanded for the settlement and development of our vast territory, dictate the avoidance of any departure from that foreign policy commended by the history, the traditions, and the prosperity of our Republic. It is the policy of independence. and the divine institution of patience and defense by our own love of justice and by our power.

ALLISON, Mr. BECK, and Mr. VOORHEES, the committee appointed to wait upon the President of the United States, appeared at the bar of the Senate, and

Mr. ALLISON said: Mr. President, the committee appointed under a resolution of the Senate to wait on the President of the United States and inform him that a quorum of the Senate is present in the Senate Chamber and ready to receive any communication from him, respectfully report that they have performed that duty, and in response thereto the President of the United States informed them that he would presently communicate with the Senate.

EXECUTIVE SESSION.

Mr. O. L. PRUDEN, one of the secretaries of the President, appeared at the bar of the Senate and said: Mr. President, I am directed by the President of the United States to deliver to the Senate sundry messages in writing.

Mr. SHERMAN. I move that the Senate proceed to the consideration of executive business.

Mr. CHILTON was agreed to; and the Senate proceeded to the consideration of executive business. After twenty-five minutes spent in executive session the doors were reopened, and at (12 o'clock and 40 minutes p. m.) the Senate adjourned.

FRIDAY, March 6, 1885.


The Journal of yesterday's proceedings was read and approved.

BACKBONE AND OTHER RAILROAD LAND GRANTS.

Mr. VAN WYCK. I ask for the consideration of a resolution which I send to the desk.

Mr. INGALLS. Let it be read for information.

The VICE-PRESIDENT. The resolution will be read.

The Chief Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Interior be directed to inform the Senate whether patents have been issued for the lands granted in 1871 to the New Orleans, Baton Rouge, and Vicksburg popularly known as the Backbone Railroad; if so, for what number of acres, to what corporation or individuals, whose names were taken for the same, when signed, whether unusual sum of fees were used to hasten the preparation and execution of said patents, whether these fees were employed wholly or in part for the application, or an intelligent perception of the claims of public office, and, above all, a firm determination, by united action, to secure to all the people of the land the full benefits of the best form of government ever vouchsafed to man. And let us not trust to human effort alone; but humbly acknowledging the power and goodness of Almighty God, who presides over the destiny of nations, and who has at all times been revealed in our country's history, let us invoke His aid and His blessing upon our labors.

The Senate returned to its Chamber at 1 o'clock and 5 minutes p. m., and the Vice-President took the chair.

HOUR OF MEETING.

Mr. EDMUNDS. Mr. President, I move that the daily hour of meeting of the Senate be 12 o'clock meridian until otherwise ordered.

The VICE-PRESIDENT. The question is on the motion of the Senator from Vermont as to the hour of meeting.

The motion was agreed to.

NOTIFICATION TO THE PRESIDENT.

Mr. ALLISON. I offer the following resolution. I ask its immediate consideration:

Resolved, That a committee of three members be appointed by the Vice-President, consisting of the President of the United States and the Senators from Vermont, so that the quorum of the Senate has assembled, and that the Senate be ready to receive any communication which may be presented to it.

The VICE-PRESIDENT. The consideration of this resolution is asked. Is there objection? The Chair hears none.

The resolution was agreed to; and the Vice-President appointed Mr. ALISON, Mr. BECK, and Mr. VOORHEES as the committee.

Mr. EDMUNDS. I move the Senate do not adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; and (at 1 o'clock and 7 minutes p. m.) the Senate adjourned.