

JOURNAL OF THE COMMITTEE.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

JANUARY 20, 1864.

Resolved by the Senate, (the House of Representatives concurring,) That a joint committee of three members of the Senate and four members of the House of Representatives be appointed to inquire into the conduct and expenditures of the present war; and may further inquire into all the facts and circumstances of contracts and agreements already made, or that may be made, and such contracts and agreements hereafter to be made prior to the final report of the committee, by or with any department of the government, in anywise connected with, or growing out of, the operations of the government in suppressing the rebellion against its constituted authority; and that the said committee shall have authority to sit during the sessions of either house of Congress, and during the recess of Congress, and at such times and places as said committee shall deem proper, and also employ a stenographer as clerk, at the usual rate of compensation.

SEC. 2. *And be it further resolved,* That the said committee shall have power to send for persons and papers; and that the Sergeant-at-arms of the House, or of the Senate, as the said committee may direct, shall attend in person, or by assistant, the sittings of the said committee, and serve all subpoenas put in his hands by the committee, pay the fees of all witnesses, and the necessary and proper expenses of the committee.

SEC. 3. *And be it further resolved,* That the Speaker of the House, or the Vice-President and President of the Senate, shall be authorized to issue subpoenas to witnesses during the recess of Congress, upon the request of the committee, in the same manner as during the sessions of Congress; and the said committee shall have authority to report in either branch of Congress at any time.

Attest:

JOHN W. FORNEY, *Secretary.*

JANUARY 20, 1864.

The Vice-President appointed

Mr. BENJAMIN F. WADE, of Ohio;
Mr. ZACHARIAH CHANDLER, of Michigan; and
Mr. BENJAMIN F. HARDING, of Oregon,

The committee on the part of the Senate.

JANUARY 21, 1864.

The Speaker of the House of Representatives appointed

Mr. DANIEL W. GOOCH, of Massachusetts;
Mr. GEORGE W. JULIAN, of Indiana;
Mr. MOSES F. ODELL, of New York; and
Mr. BENJAMIN F. LOAN, of Missouri,

The committee on the part of the House.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *January 25, 1864.*

The committee met pursuant to call of its chairman: present, the chairman, (Mr. Wade,) Messrs. Chandler, Gooch, Julian, Odell, and Loan.

The chairman stated that Mr. Harding was compelled to be absent on business connected with the departments, but had authorized him to act for him in all matters coming before the committee.

The joint resolution authorizing the appointment of the committee was read.

Mr. William Blair Lord, (of New York city,) stenographer, was appointed clerk of the committee, and duly sworn.

On motion of Mr. CHANDLER,

Ordered, That for the purpose of taking testimony, less than a quorum of the committee shall be sufficient.

On motion of Mr. ODELL,

Ordered, That this committee adopt the same rule in regard to expenses that was acted upon by the Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War of the last Congress, viz:

That for travelling and other expenses incurred by this committee in the discharge of their duties, there shall be allowed only the sums actually expended by the committee or its individual members.

On motion of Mr. GOOCH,

Ordered, That the clerk of this committee be directed to procure, from time to time, the necessary stationery for the use of the committee.

On motion of Mr. ODELL,

The chairman was instructed to address communications to the President, the Secretary of War, the Secretary of the Navy, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Secretary of the Interior, respectively, enclosing to each a copy of the joint resolution under which this committee is acting, and informing each of said officers that this committee have organized for business, and will wait upon him at such time as he may designate as most convenient.

Adjourned to 12 m. to-morrow.

WASHINGTON, *January 26, 1864.*

The committee met pursuant to adjournment: present, the chairman, Messrs. Chandler, Gooch, Odell, and Loan.

The following resolution was received and read:

“IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES,

“*January 25, 1864.*

“On motion by Mr. WILSON,

“*Resolved,* That the Committee on the Conduct of the War be instructed to inquire into the character and efficiency of the heavy ordnance now provided for the armament of fortifications, the mode of fabrication, the amount of ‘royalty’ paid, and to whom, for the use of a patent in the manufacture; the tests to which these guns are subjected when received into service, the reasons for believing the tests satisfactory, what proportion of our sea and land armament is of rifled ordnance, when rifled guns were introduced, and the cause of the delay pertaining thereto.

“Attest:

“J. W. FORNEY, *Secretary.*”

Adjourned to 11 a. m. to-morrow.

WASHINGTON, *January 27, 1864.*

The committee met pursuant to adjournment: present, the chairman, Messrs. Chandler, Harding, Gooch, Odell, and Loan.

The following witness was examined:

Brigadier General George D. Ramsey.

The chairman laid before the committee communications from the Secretary of War and the Secretary of the Interior, in response to communications from the committee of January 25. The communications were read.

The committee accepted the invitation of the Secretary of War to meet him to-night at 8 o'clock.

Mr. GOOCH moved that a communication be addressed to the Secretary of War, inquiring the entire strength of the army, where located, and its condition at the present time; and also its estimated strength on the first day of May next, under present legislation.

Also, a similar communication in regard to the navy, to be addressed to the Secretary of the Navy.

Mr. HARDING moved that Mr. Gooch be instructed to prepare said communications.

The further consideration of the subject was postponed until after the committee shall have had interviews with said Secretaries.

On motion of Mr. GOOCH,

The chairman was instructed to obtain from the Patent Office information concerning all patents for ordnance and material used therewith, now in use by the government, such information to embrace the dates of patents, subjects of patents, names of patentees, assignees, &c.

The committee then adjourned to 11 a. m. to-morrow.

WASHINGTON, *January 28, 1864.*

The committee met pursuant to adjournment: all the members present.

The following witnesses were examined:

Captain Henry A. Wise;

Captain S. V. Benét.

The chairman directed the clerk to enter upon the journal that the committee waited upon the Secretary of War, pursuant to appointment, and had a very satisfactory interview with him, and agreed upon certain principles to govern the committee in their investigations.

The committee adjourned to meet at 11 a. m. to-morrow.

WASHINGTON, *January 29, 1864.*

The committee met pursuant to adjournment: present, the chairman, Messrs. Chandler, Harding, Gooch, Odell, and Loan.

The following witnesses were examined:

General John G. Barnard;

General William F. Barry.

The chairman laid before the committee a communication from the Secretary of the Navy, in reply to communication of the committee of the 25th instant.

Adjourned to 11 a. m. on Monday next.

WASHINGTON, *February 1, 1864.*

The committee met pursuant to adjournment : all the members present.

The following witness was examined :

Captain Alfred Mordecai.

Adjourned to meet at 11 a. m. to-morrow.

WASHINGTON, *February 2, 1864.*

The committee met pursuant to adjournment : present, the chairman, Messrs. Gooch, Odell, and Loan.

The following witness was examined :

Captain James G. Benton.

On motion of Mr. GOOCH,

The chairman was instructed to obtain from the War Department copies of all contracts made since January, 1862, to supply the government in any of its departments with ice, embracing names of contractors, amounts contracted for, prices to be paid, and places of delivery.

Adjourned to 11 a. m. to-morrow.

WASHINGTON, *February 3, 1864.*

The committee met pursuant to adjournment : present, the chairman, Messrs. Chandler, Gooch, Julian, Odell, and Loan.

The following witness was examined :

Commodore John Rodgers.

On motion of Mr. ODELL,

The chairman was instructed to apply to the War Department for information in relation to hospitals ; what buildings are now used for hospital purposes ; their locations ; the rent paid ; if hired, whether by the month or the year ; if leased, for how long time ; the number of beds in each ; the number of patients in each at date of last returns ; the force employed, and of what grade.

On motion of Mr. CHANDLER,

The chairman was instructed to address a communication to Admiral John A. Dahlgren, enclosing copy of resolution of Senate in relation to heavy ordnance, and requesting him to forward to the committee, as soon as convenient, such information on the subject as he may possess.

The following resolution was received from the Senate :

“ IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES,

“ *February 2, 1864.*

“ *Resolved*, That the Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War be instructed to inquire into the military administration, in all its departments, in the city of Alexandria, and especially into the system of military police there established, and the place and mode of imprisonment and punishment, and whether punishments of a ‘cruel and unusual character’ are not inflicted, without authority of law, in a place known as ‘the slave-pen’ in that city ; and that said committee inquire what fines and forfeitures are declared and levied in said city, and how, and by whom, and by what authority they are levied and declared, and to what purpose they are appropriated ; and especially whether imprisonment in ‘the slave-pen’ and douchings are resorted to by the military authorities for the punishment of soldiers.”

Adjourned to 12 m. to-morrow.

WASHINGTON, *February 4, 1864.*

The committee met pursuant to adjournment : present, the chairman, Messrs. Chandler, Gooch, Odell, and Loan.

The following witness was examined :

Mr. Charles Knap.

The chairman laid before the committee a communication from Captain Henry A. Wise, Ordnance bureau, Navy Department, together with information asked for by the committee in relation to heavy ordnance.

Ordered, That the same be filed with the testimony of Captain Wise on that subject.

Also, a petition, received from the Senate, of citizens of Harrison county, Missouri, in relation to arming disloyal persons in that county and State.

Referred to Mr. Loan, as a sub-committee, with instructions to investigate the same and report to this committee.

On motion of Mr. GOOCH,

Ordered, That the doorkeeper of the House of Representatives be directed to furnish a page to attend upon this committee.

Adjourned to 11 a. m. to-morrow.

WASHINGTON, *February 5, 1864.*

The committee met pursuant to adjournment : present, the chairman, Messrs. Harding, Gooch, and Odell.

The following witness was examined :

Rear-Admiral Samuel F. DuPont.

On motion of Mr. GOOCH,

The chairman was instructed to apply to the War Department for additional information in relation to ice contracts, viz : the amounts delivered at each point, and the sums of money paid for the amounts delivered.

Adjourned to meet at 11 a. m. to-morrow.

WASHINGTON, *February 6, 1864.*

The committee met pursuant to adjournment : present, the chairman, Messrs. Harding, Gooch, and Odell.

A communication was received from the War Department, transmitting a portion of the information in relation to ice contracts called for by the committee on the 2d instant, and acknowledging receipt of communication from the committee of the 5th instant.

The following witnesses were examined :

Major A. B. Dyer ;

Major T. J. Rodman.

The chairman laid before the committee a communication from the President, received late this morning, appointing 3 p. m. to-day for receiving the committee, in accordance with their communication of the 25th ultimo.

The chairman was instructed to reply that the communication from the President was received at so late an hour, (Congress not being in session to-day,) that it was not possible to call the members of the committee together in time to attend upon him at the hour named.

The following witness was examined :

Mr. Addison Gage.

Adjourned to 11 a. m. on Monday next.

WASHINGTON, *February 8, 1864.*

The committee met pursuant to adjournment: all the members present.

After discussion,

The chairman was instructed to inform Mr. J. C. Tiffany that investigations were being made in regard to contracts for delivering ice to the government, in many of which, especially for the year 1863, he appears to have been interested; and that any evidence or information he desired to give the committee would be received.

Adjourned to 11 a. m. to-morrow.

WASHINGTON, *February 9, 1864.*

The committee met pursuant to adjournment: present, the chairman, Messrs. Chandler, Gooch, Julian, Odell, and Loan.

A communication was received from the Secretary of War, transmitting copies of contracts to supply ice to the government since January, 1862.

The following witnesses were examined:

Mr. L. J. Middleton;

Mr. Walter Godey.

Adjourned to 11 a. m. to-morrow.

WASHINGTON, *February 10, 1864.*

The committee met pursuant to adjournment: all the members present.

The following witnesses were examined:

Mr. Robert A. Payne;

Mr. L. J. Middleton, (recalled;)

Mr. Walter Godey, (recalled;)

Mr. Manchester Eldridge.

The chairman laid before the committee a communication from the Secretary of War, requesting the committee "to investigate the operations of the quartermaster's department in the cities of New York and Philadelphia."

Read and placed on file for future consideration.

A delegation waited upon the committee from the legislature of Virginia, appointed under the following resolution:

"Resolved by the general assembly of Virginia, That a committee of three members of the general assembly, one from the senate and two from the house, be appointed by the speaker of the house and the president of the senate, to aid and advise with the committee of Congress on the conduct of the war in their investigation of the affairs connected with the military government of Alexandria and elsewhere in Virginia.

"Passed February 6, 1864.

"LEOPOLD C. P. COWPER,

"President of the Senate.

"JAMES M. DOWNEY,

"Speaker of the House of Delegates."

The following are the members appointed under the foregoing resolution:

Mr. W. F. Mercier, on the part of the senate; Mr. Reuben Johnston and Mr. J. W. Brownley, on the part of the house of delegates.

Mr. Mercier, on behalf of the delegation, (after explaining the reason for the absence of Mr. Brownley,) proceeded to state at some length the object had in view by the legislature of Virginia in appointing this delegation.

After some time spent in discussion,

It was agreed on the part of the committee that the Virginia delegation should, from time to time, lay before this committee in writing such suggestions in rela-

tion to affairs in Virginia as to them should appear important, with the names of witnesses, and the committee would take action thereon.

Whereupon the interview was closed.

Adjourned to 11 a. m. to-morrow.

WASHINGTON, *February 11, 1864.*

The committee met pursuant to adjournment: present, the chairman, Messrs. Chandler, Gooch, Julian, and Odell.

The following witnesses were examined:

Dr. Henry Johnson;

Dr. R. O. Abbott.

The chairman laid before the committee a communication from Mr. George S. Jenkins, proposing, if the committee would accept his services, to devote his attention to obtaining information that he believed would tend to great saving to the government, asking no compensation at present, but leaving that entirely to the committee after his services had been rendered.

The chairman stated that this gentleman had been strongly recommended to him. After discussion,

On motion of Mr. CHANDLER, it was

Ordered, That the chairman be instructed to reply to Mr. Jenkins, that, while the committee had no authority to employ him, or any one else, as their agent in any way, they would consider any information he might furnish them, and, should it prove of service to the government, they would recommend to Congress that he be compensated accordingly.

Adjourned to 11 a. m. to-morrow.

WASHINGTON, *February 12, 1864.*

The committee met pursuant to adjournment: present, the chairman, Messrs. Chandler, Gooch, Julian, Odell, and Loan.

The following witnesses were examined:

Lieutenant Colonel Henry H. Wells;

Mr. Manchester Eldridge, (recalled);

Captain John C. Wyman.

On motion of Mr. CHANDLER,

Ordered, That the committee, or such members as may desire to do so, will proceed to Alexandria to-morrow, at 2 p. m., for the purpose of examining into the condition of affairs there.

On motion of Mr. ODELL,

Mr. Gooch was authorized to obtain from the War Department such papers as may be necessary to enable the committee to pursue its investigation in reference to the supply of ice for government purposes.

On motion of Mr. GOOCH,

Mr. Odell was instructed to ascertain the tonnage of vessels engaged in supplying ice to the government under contracts.

Adjourned to Monday next, at 11 a. m.

WASHINGTON, *February 15, 1864.*

The committee met pursuant to adjournment: all the members present.

The following witness was examined:

Dr. David L. Magruder.

Mr. CHANDLER made a verbal report to the committee, that the following members of the committee, Messrs. Chandler, Harding, Julian, Odell, and Loan,

proceeded to Alexandria on Saturday, pursuant to order of the committee, and proceeded to inspect the jail, slave-pen, &c., and found the condition of affairs generally, in Alexandria, in accordance with the testimony of Lieutenant Colonel Wells and Captain Wyman; also, that they had had an interview with General Slough, who would appear before the committee to-morrow and give testimony on such points as the committee might require.

Adjourned to 11 a. m. to-morrow.

WASHINGTON, *February* 16, 1864.

The committee met pursuant to adjournment: all the members present.

The following witness was examined:

General John P. Slough.

Mr. LOAN laid before the committee a letter addressed to Hon. B. Gratz Brown, United States senator from Missouri, from Mr. Michael English, complaining of the barbarous treatment of soldiers by General Guitar, in Missouri. Referred to Mr. Loan, with instructions to examine and report to the committee.

On motion of Mr. GOOCH,

The chairman was instructed to obtain from Hon. Mr. Dana, Assistant Secretary of War, copies of all papers in his office relating to supplies of ice for the west during the present year.

Mr. ODELL stated to the committee that the Secretary of War had called his attention to the fact, that in the course of the examination yesterday, in the court-martial of Surgeon General Hammond, an order had been produced, signed by Surgeon R. D. Abbott, medical director for the department of Washington, requiring contracts to be made with the Sanitary Commission for hospital supplies in this department; and that the Secretary of War desired this committee to investigate the matter.

On motion of Mr. ODELL,

Ordered, That this committee will proceed to investigate accordingly.

The committee thereupon took a recess until 3 o'clock p. m.

The committee reassembled at 3 p. m.

The following witness was examined:

Hon. John A. Bingham.

Adjourned to 12 m. to-morrow.

WASHINGTON, *February* 17, 1864.

The committee met pursuant to adjournment: all the members present. After some time passed in the consideration of various subjects, the committee adjourned to 11 a. m. to-morrow.

WASHINGTON, *February* 18, 1864.

The committee met pursuant to adjournment: present, the chairman, Messrs. Chandler, Gooch, Julian, Odell, and Loan.

The following witnesses were examined:

Dr. R. O. Abbott;

Mr. Charles H. Travis.

The committee proceeded to consider communications from Hon. R. Johnston, chairman of joint committee of the general assembly of Virginia, in relation to

military affairs in Virginia, especially the military administration of General John P. Slough.

On motion of Mr. GOOCH,

Ordered, That the communications be placed on file, and that the chairman be instructed to reply that the committee have received the communications, and will examine reliable witnesses upon the subjects therein mentioned.

Adjourned to 11 a. m. to-morrow.

WASHINGTON, *February* 19, 1864.

The committee met pursuant to adjournment: present, the chairman, Messrs. Chandler, Harding, Gooch, Julian, and Loan.

The following witnesses were examined:

Mr. Charles H. Travis;

Captain William M. Gwynne.

The chairman laid before the committee a communication from Hon. C. A. Dana, Assistant Secretary of War, with accompanying papers, in response to call of the committee on the 16th instant.

Also, a communication from Mr. J. C. Tiffany, in response to communication to him from the committee of the 8th instant, in which Mr. Tiffany states that as soon as he can obtain the information called for by the committee he will forward it to them.

Adjourned to 11 a. m. Monday next.

WASHINGTON, *February* 22, 1864.

The committee met pursuant to adjournment: present, the chairman, Messrs. Chandler, Gooch, Julian, Odell, and Loan.

Mr. LOAN submitted the following, which was read:

“To the Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War:

“The undersigned, a sub-committee to whom was referred the memorial of Howard T. Combs and others, of Missouri, relating to the arming of the disloyal population, and the return of fugitive slaves, would respectfully

REPORT:

“That he has had the same under consideration, and is satisfied that the following statements are substantially true, to wit:

“The military force used in Missouri for more than a year past consists chiefly of the militia of the State; that this force, prior to the middle of the summer of 1863, consisted of soldiers of undoubted loyalty. Subsequent to that time the Governor of the State, who assumed and exercised an unlimited and arbitrary authority over this force and in directing its organization, by his orders, disbanded the greater part of the loyal militia and disarmed them, and revoked the commissions of their officers. In lieu thereof, he organized, as the militia, returned soldiers from the rebel army, guerillas, bushwhackers, and rebel sympathizers, and placed officers of similar sentiments in command of them, so that the federal military authority in Missouri was under the control and direction of the disloyal sentiment of the State; and under it the loyal people have been compelled to submit to every insult, injury, and wrong that the most fiendish malignity and hate could devise, and the most relentless cruelty inflict. Wilful and deliberate murders have been committed on loyal citizens in the most cowardly and cruel manner.

“The superior officers of the federal troops in the State, in many instances, sympathize with the rebels, especially upon the subject of slavery; and they have directed their policy so as to protect, as far as possible, those entertaining disloyal sentiments. There is reason to believe that they have used the troops under their command to prevent the escape of slaves from their masters, and to return fugitive slaves, in violation of the provisions of acts of Congress, and of the additional articles of war.

“There is reason to believe that they have pursued a systematic course of persecution of the soldiers under their command, who are known to entertain radical sentiments, and by

means of packed court-martials have secured convictions upon frivolous charges, upon which unusually severe sentences have been pronounced and confirmed.

"It is believed that such officers have arbitrarily arrested, and confined in the guard house, officers in the federal service who were passing through their jurisdiction with colored recruits, and have taken possession of the recruits and sent them to parts of the State where the sentiment of the citizens was intensely disloyal.

"It is further believed that, for the purpose of oppressing and persecuting loyal citizens, and protecting those who are disloyal from being punished for offences alleged against them, the military authorities in Missouri have instituted military tribunals, commonly called 'military commissions,' which would exercise, or decline to exercise, jurisdiction arbitrarily, as would best subserve the objects they have in view. They have also intrusted to the arbitrary discretion of any officer, even one of the lowest grade, if he had command of a separate squad of men, the right to suspend or enforce the writ of habeas corpus.

"In conclusion, it is not improper to say that it is manifest that heretofore the administration of military affairs in Missouri has been so directed as to furnish the most ample protection to the disloyal, and conduce to the destruction of the interest of the loyal citizen in many cases, and to the most relentless and vindictive persecution of his person.

"All of which is respectfully submitted.

"BENJ. F. LOAN."

Mr. LOAN said that he had in his possession sworn statements of citizens of Missouri to substantiate all, or nearly all, of the assertions made in his report. He believed that the subject was one well worthy investigation by this committee. But he was aware that the state of the public business here was such as might not now justify the sending a sub-committee to Missouri to institute an investigation, and it would be too expensive to call the witnesses to this city. He therefore moved the further consideration of this subject be postponed for the present. Agreed to.

Mr. LOAN also submitted the following preamble and resolution, which were read:

"It appearing, from the evidence before this committee, that Captain William M. Gwynne, 66th Ohio volunteers, provost marshal of the city of Alexandria, Virginia, has seized liquors and other property, which have been condemned by him as forfeited:

"And it further appearing that he has issued part of said property upon requisitions drawn by surgeons at Alexandria and in its vicinity, but not containing any sufficient reasons showing the necessity for the issue of the same, and without approval by any one; and other parts of said property have been turned over to the proper quartermasters, as is alleged, without taking or filing any vouchers which will charge said officers with said property:

"And it further appearing that property, which has been seized and condemned by said officer or forfeited as aforesaid to the government, is disposed of by said provost marshal without any account thereof being made to any disbursing officer of the government, or any charge being made in any way against the said quartermaster or surgeons which would require them to account for the same: therefore,

"*Resolved*, That, in the opinion of this committee, it is inexpedient to continue as the agents of the government, in important and responsible positions, officers who, from carelessness or ignorance, so entirely neglect the most obvious duties demanded by their positions for the protection of the interests of the government."

After discussion,

On motion of Mr. JULIAN:

Ordered, That the consideration of the preamble and resolutions be postponed until further testimony upon the subject has been taken by this committee.

On motion of Mr. ODELL,

The committee then proceeded to consider the communication from the War Department, (see Journal, February 10,) requesting the committee "to investigate the operations of the quartermaster's department in the cities of New York and Philadelphia."

After discussion,

On motion of Mr. GOOCH,

Ordered, That a sub-committee of three members be appointed to confer with the Secretary of War, and who shall, if they deem it necessary, proceed "to investigate the operations of the quartermaster's department in the cities of New York and Philadelphia."

Mr. GOOCH moved that the chairman of this committee be one of the sub-committee, and be authorized to appoint the remaining members of the sub-committee.

Agreed to.

The chairman accordingly appointed, as the other two members, Messrs. Gooch and Odell.

Mr. ODELL moved that any other member or members of this committee who may desire to accompany this sub-committee and take part in this investigation be authorized to do so.

Agreed to.

The chairman stated that he doubted if he should be able to attend the sub-committee to New York and Philadelphia, but he should endeavor to get some other member to take his place.

The chairman also notified the sub-committee, and other members of this committee, to meet him at the War Department to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock, for the purpose of conferring with the Secretary of War upon this subject.

Adjourned to 11 a. m. on Wednesday next.

WASHINGTON, *February 24, 1864.*

The committee met pursuant to adjournment: present, the chairman, Messrs. Chandler, Harding, and Loan.

The chairman laid before the committee a communication from Rear-Admiral John A. Dahlgren, dated February 15, acknowledging receipt of communication from this committee of the 3d instant, and stating that he would forward the information asked as soon as he could obtain it;

Also, communications relating to affairs in Missouri and Arkansas; which,

On motion of Mr. LOAN were placed on file for future consideration.

Adjourned to 12 m. to-morrow.

WASHINGTON, *February 25, 1864.*

The committee met pursuant to adjournment: present, the chairman, Messrs. Chandler, Gooch, Odell, and Loan.

The following witness was examined:

Major General Daniel E. Sickles.

Adjourned to 12 m. to-morrow.

WASHINGTON, *February 26, 1864.*

The committee met pursuant to adjournment: present, the chairman, Messrs. Chandler, Gooch, Julian, and Loan.

The following witnesses were examined:

Major General Daniel E. Sickles, (resumed);

Mr. E. T. Fowler;

Mr. T. Tracy Edgerton.

The chairman laid before the committee a communication from Mr. J. C. Tiffany, giving information in relation to supplies of ice to the government, under his contract.

Ordered, That the same be filed with the testimony taken upon that subject.

Adjourned to 12 m. on Tuesday next.

WASHINGTON, *March 1, 1864.*

The committee met pursuant to adjournment: present, the chairman, Messrs. Chandler and Julian.

The chairman stated that Messrs. Gooch and Odell had gone to New York to investigate the affairs of the quartermaster's department, pursuant to the order of this committee on the 22d ultimo.

The chairman also stated that the sudden illness of his wife had prevented him from attending the rest of the sub-committee.

The following witness was examined:

Major General Abner Doubleday.

The following resolution, from the House of Representatives, was received and read:

“FEBRUARY 29, 1864.

“On motion of Mr. GARFIELD,

“*Resolved*, That the Committee on the Conduct of the War be instructed to inquire into and report upon the several acts of Congress touching commercial intercourse with the States declared to be in insurrection against the authority of the government, and of the regulations of the Treasury Department established by the Secretary and approved by the President on the 31st day of March and the 11th day of September, 1863, and of the military orders which have been made, from time to time, touching such commercial intercourse, by generals commanding departments or other officers; also, to ascertain and report in what manner said acts, regulations, and orders have been executed, and especially whether any frauds have been committed or favoritism shown to individuals or localities by the officers or agents of the government employed under the said acts, regulations, or orders, and to inquire into all other matters touching any of the points which affect the public interest or the character of any public servant.”

The chairman said that the field of inquiry presented by the resolution was so general and extended that it was difficult to determine where to commence the investigation.

On motion of Mr. CHANDLER,

The chairman was instructed to address a communication to the mover of the resolution (Mr. Garfield) asking him to furnish the committee with any information he may possess upon the subject, with such suggestions as he may think important.

Adjourned to 9½ a. m. on Thursday next.

WASHINGTON, *March 3, 1864.*

The committee met pursuant to adjournment: present, the chairman and Mr. Chandler.

The following witness was examined:

General A. P. Howe.

The following resolution was received from the Senate:

“MARCH 2, 1864.

“On motion by Mr. HENDRICKS,

“*Resolved*, That the Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War be directed to inquire into the causes of, and circumstances attending, the recent military expedition into Florida; with whom the expedition originated; for what purpose it was undertaken, and what were its results, and that the committee be instructed to report at as early a day as practicable.

“Attest:

“J. W. FORNEY, *Secretary.*”

The chairman was instructed to forward a copy of the resolution to the President, Secretary of War, and General Halleck, and request each of them to furnish the committee, as soon as convenient, whatever information there may be in their possession in relation to the subject-matter of the resolution.

Adjourned to 9½ a. m. to-morrow.

WASHINGTON, *March 4, 1864.*

The committee met pursuant to adjournment: present, the chairman, Messrs. Chandler and Loan.

The following witnesses were examined:

General A. P. Howe, (concluded;)

Rear-Admiral J. A. Dahlgren.

The chairman directed the stenographer to enter upon the journal that, having become impressed with the exceeding importance of the testimony taken by the committee in relation to the army of the Potomac, more especially in relation to the incompetency of the general in command of the army, he and Mr. Chandler had believed it to be their duty to call upon the President and the Secretary of War, and lay before them the substance of the testimony taken by them, and, in behalf of the army and of the country, demand the removal of General Meade, and the appointment of some one more competent to command. They accordingly did so yesterday afternoon; and being asked what general they could recommend for the command of the army of the Potomac, they said that for themselves they would be content with General Hooker, believing him to be competent; but not being advocates of any particular general, they would say that if there was any general whom the President considered more competent for the command, then let him be appointed. They stated that Congress had appointed the committee to watch the conduct of the war; and unless this state of things should be soon changed it would become their duty to make the testimony public which they had taken, with such comments as the circumstances of the case seemed to require.

The chairman said he had been informed that General Meade was in town.

On motion, it was

Ordered, That the Sergeant-at-arms be directed to notify General Meade that the committee desired to take his testimony to-morrow, or at such time as may be most convenient to him, considering the requirements of the service.

Adjourned to 12 m. to-morrow.

WASHINGTON, *March 5, 1864.*

The committee met pursuant to adjournment: present, the chairman and Mr. Chandler.

The following witness was examined:

Major General George G. Meade.

Adjourned to 11 a. m. on Monday next.

WASHINGTON, *March 7, 1864.*

The committee met pursuant to adjournment: present, the chairman, Messrs. Chandler and Julian.

The following witnesses were examined:

Major General Alfred Pleasonton;

Major General David B. Birney.

The chairman laid before the committee a communication from General J. W. Davidson, in reply to communication of committee of 24th of February, asking for information relative to affairs in Arkansas and Missouri. General Davidson wrote that as soon as he could get the information together he would forward it to the committee.

Adjourned to 12 m. to-morrow.

WASHINGTON, *March 8, 1864.*

The committee met pursuant to adjournment: present, the chairman, Messrs. Chandler, Julian, and Loan.

The following witness was examined:

Colonel Thomas D. Johns.

The chairman laid before the committee a communication from the War Department transmitting information in relation to hospitals, called for by the committee of February 3, which was ordered to be placed on file.

Adjourned to 11 a. m. to-morrow.

WASHINGTON, *March 9, 1864.*

The committee met pursuant to adjournment: present, the chairman, Messrs. Chandler, Harding, Julian, and Loan.

The following witness was examined:

Major General G. K. Warren.

Francis Waldron, who had been summoned to appear before the committee and testify, then appeared, but refused to take the oath and testify, preferring, as he said, to take any consequences of refusal.

After some discussion,

Mr. Harding submitted the following resolution, which was agreed to unanimously:

Resolved, That Francis Waldron be ordered into the custody of the Sergeant-at-arms of the Senate, to be there safely and securely kept until further order of the committee—said Francis Waldron having refused to testify before this committee.

The Sergeant-at-arms of the Senate was then called into the committee room, and Francis Waldron delivered into his custody, in accordance with the above resolution.

Adjourned to 11 a. m. to-morrow.

WASHINGTON, *March 10, 1864.*

The committee met pursuant to adjournment: all the members present.

The following witness was examined:

Major General G. K. Warren—(concluded.)

The committee resumed the consideration of the case of Francis Waldron, now in custody of the Sergeant-at-arms of the Senate, for refusing to testify.

After some discussion,

The further consideration of the subject was postponed until to-morrow, in order that the members of the committee might make inquiries into the character of Francis Waldron for truth and veracity.

Adjourned to 11 a. m. to-morrow.

WASHINGTON, *March 11, 1864.*

The committee met pursuant to adjournment: absent, Mr. Harding.

After some conversation,

Mr. LOAN submitted the following resolution, which was adopted:

It manifestly appearing, from information before this committee, that Francis Waldron, now in custody of the Sergeant-at-arms of the Senate, by order of this committee, for refusing to testify, is a man of such a character that no confidence could be placed in any statement he might make under oath, and that nothing beneficial could result in compelling him to testify in the premises: Therefore,

Resolved, That said Francis Waldron be, and is hereby, discharged from custody.

Mr. LOAN submitted sundry papers in reference to the seizure of negroes in Missouri, after they had been employed in the United States service, by disloyal men claiming to be their owners.

Ordered to be filed with papers relating to Missouri.

The chairman laid before the committee a written statement from Brigadier General J. W. Davidson upon the administration of affairs in Arkansas, both military and civil, in response to call of the committee.

Ordered, That the same be filed with the evidence.

The following witness was examined:

Major General George G. Meade, (recalled.)

Adjourned to 11 a. m. on Monday next.

WASHINGTON, *March* 14, 1864.

The committee met pursuant to adjournment: absent, Mr. Harding.

Adjourned to 11 a. m. to-morrow.

WASHINGTON, *March* 15, 1864.

The committee met pursuant to adjournment: absent Messrs. Julian and Odell.

A petition from citizens of Daviess county, Missouri, praying that the arming of disloyal men and returned rebels in their midst may be hereafter prevented, was received from the Senate and ordered to be filed with the other papers relating to affairs in Missouri.

Adjourned to 11 a. m. on Thursday next.

WASHINGTON, *March* 17, 1864.

The committee met pursuant to adjournment: absent, Messrs. Harding and Julian.

The following witness was examined:

General John W. Turner.

The chairman laid before the committee certain papers received from Hon. J. W. Edmunds, Commissioner of Pensions, relative to the administration of affairs in Arkansas, under General Blunt and General Steele.

Those papers, with the communication from General John W. Davidson, relating to the same subject, were read.

After considerable discussion, the further consideration of the subject was postponed for the present.

Adjourned to 12 m. to-morrow.

WASHINGTON, *March* 18, 1864.

The committee met pursuant to adjournment: present, the chairman, Messrs. Chandler, Gooch, and Loan.

On motion of Mr. CHANDLER,

Ordered, That the chairman of this committee be instructed to address a letter to Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, informing him that the committee, in their examination concerning the

battle of Chancellorsville, have not yet been able to obtain any testimony to substantiate the charge that General Hooker was under the influence of intoxicating liquor there; and inasmuch as he (Mr. Beecher) is reported to have made that charge in an address last year, in England, the committee desire him to give them his authority for the charge, and the names of reliable witnesses to substantiate the same.

After some discussion upon the order of business before the committee,
Adjourned to 12 m. on Monday next.

WASHINGTON, *March 21, 1864.*

The committee met pursuant to adjournment: absent, Mr. Julian.

The following witness was examined:

General Andrew A. Humphreys.

Adjourned to 11 a. m. to-morrow.

WASHINGTON, *March 22, 1864.*

The committee met pursuant to adjournment: absent, Messrs. Harding and Julian.

The following witness was examined:

Major General W. S. Hancock.

Adjourned to 11 a. m. to-morrow.

WASHINGTON, *March 23, 1864.*

The committee met pursuant to adjournment: absent, Messrs. Harding, Julian, and Odell.

The following witnesses were examined:

General E. B. Tyler;

General James S. Wadsworth.

Adjourned to 11 a. m. to-morrow.

WASHINGTON, *March 24, 1864.*

The committee met pursuant to adjournment: absent, Messrs. Julian and Loan.

After discussion, on motion of Mr. CHANDLER,

Ordered, That the Secretary of War be requested to order General Hooker to appear before the committee, if the exigencies of the service will permit.

Adjourned to 2 p. m. to-morrow.

WASHINGTON, *March 25, 1864.*

The committee met pursuant to adjournment: absent, Mr. Loan.

The following witness was examined:

Major General Daniel Butterfield.

Adjourned to 11 a. m. to-morrow.

WASHINGTON, *March 26, 1864.*

The committee met pursuant to adjournment: absent, Messrs. Harding, Julian, and Loan.

The following witnesses were examined:

Mr. John Morris;

Mr. J. C. Tiffany.

Adjourned to 11 a. m. on Monday next.

WASHINGTON, *March* 28, 1864.

The committee met pursuant to adjournment: absent, Mr. Odell.

On motion of Mr. CHANDLER,

Ordered, That the chairman of this committee be instructed to apply to the Secretary of War for copies of all orders, despatches, communications, &c., that have passed between the War Department, General Halleck, &c., and Generals Hooker and Meade, during the time those generals were in command of the army of the Potomac.

Also, copies of all maps in possession of the War Department relating to the operations of the army of the Potomac, so far as it may be convenient and expedient to furnish the same to the committee.

The following witness was examined:

Major General Daniel Butterfield (continued.)

Adjourned to 11 a. m. to-morrow.

WASHINGTON, *March* 28, 1864.

The committee met pursuant to adjournment: absent, Messrs. Julian and Loan.

The following witness was examined:

Major General Daniel Butterfield (concluded.)

Adjourned to 11 a. m. on Friday next.

WASHINGTON, *April* 1, 1864.

The committee met pursuant to adjournment: all the members present.

Witnesses examined:

Major General George G. Meade;

Brigadier General Gibbon.

Adjourned to 11 a. m. on Monday next.

WASHINGTON, *April* 4, 1864.

The committee met pursuant to adjournment: present, the chairman, Messrs. Chandler, Gooch, Julian, and Loan.

On motion of Mr. CHANDLER,

Ordered, That inasmuch as no reply has been received from Rev. Henry Ward Beecher to the letter of this committee of the 18th ultimo, the chairman of this committee is hereby instructed to again address Mr. Beecher as before.

Witness examined:

General H. J. Hunt.

Adjourned to 11 a. m. on Wednesday next.

WASHINGTON, *April* 6, 1864.

The committee met pursuant to adjournment: absent, Messrs. Harding, Julian, and Odell.

The chairman laid before the committee a communication from the War Department transmitting information concerning the late expedition into Florida, under General Seymour, which was ordered to be filed with the testimony upon that subject.

Mr. LOAN laid before the committee a copy of a petition from citizens of Cooper county, Missouri, asking the removal of Brigadier General Brown from the command of that district.

Adjourned to 11 a. m. to-morrow.

WASHINGTON, *April 7, 1864.*

The committee met pursuant to adjournment : absent, Messrs. Harding, Julian, and Odell.

Witnesses examined :

Hon. J. W. McClurg ;

Hon. S. H. Boyd.

The chairman laid before the committee the following letter from Rev. Henry Ward Beecher.

“ BROOKLYN, *April 6, 1864.*

“ DEAR SIR : I did not make any ‘ public ’ remarks about General Hooker while in England. At a breakfast, of temperance men, strictly confidential, and pledged to make no report of proceedings, I alluded to Hooker’s condition. My remarks were published in violation of confidence.

“ As to my evidence, it was such as to produce moral conviction, but not to establish the fact, legally, that, during the last part of the battle of Chancellorsville, Hooker was under the influence of liquor.

“ I do not feel at liberty to mention my informant until I can see him and get his permission.

“ I am very truly yours,

“ H. W. BEECHER.

“ B. F. WADE, Esq.”

Adjourned to 11 a. m. to-morrow.

WASHINGTON, *April 8, 1864.*

The committee met pursuant to adjournment : absent, Mr. Harding.

Witness examined :

Major General John Sedgwick.

Adjourned to 11 a. m. on Monday next.

WASHINGTON, *April 11, 1864.*

The committee met pursuant to adjournment : present, the chairman, Messrs. Chandler, Harding, and Loan.

The chairman laid before the committee a draught of a report to accompany the testimony taken under the resolution of the Senate instructing the committee to inquire into the origin, progress, and results of the late military expedition into Florida.

The report was read and adopted unanimously.

On motion of Mr. CHANDLER, it was

Ordered, That the chairman be, and is hereby, instructed to submit at once the report just adopted, together with the testimony upon the subject, and ask that 5,000 copies of the same be printed.

Adjourned, to meet on call of the chairman.

WASHINGTON, *April 18, 1864.*

The committee met pursuant to call of the chairman : all the members present.

Witness examined :

Brigadier General Seth Williams.

On motion of Mr. LOAN,

The committee proceeded to consider the petition of Cooper county, Missouri, with the testimony relating to the military administration of General Brown.

After discussion,

On motion of Mr. CHANDLER,

Ordered, That Messrs. Harding, Julian, and Loan be, and they are hereby, appointed a sub-committee, with instructions to wait upon the Secretary of War and lay before him the papers and testimony relating to the administration of General Brown, of Missouri, and make such representations to him as they may deem proper.

The chairman laid before the committee the following resolution of the Senate :

“APRIL 16, 1864.

“ *Resolved*, That the Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War be, and they are hereby instructed to inquire into the truth of the rumored slaughter of the Union troops after their surrender at the recent attack of rebel forces upon Fort Pillow, Tennessee ; and also whether Fort Pillow could have been evacuated or sufficiently re-enforced ; and if so, why it was not done ; and that they report the facts to Congress as soon as possible.”

After discussion, it was

Ordered, That the chairman and Mr. Gooch be, and hereby are, appointed a sub-committee, with authority to proceed to such place or places as they may deem necessary, and to take testimony upon the subject of the foregoing resolution ; and to take the stenographer of the committee with them, or employ one in his stead.

Adjourned, to meet on call.

WASHINGTON, *April 22*, 1864.

The committee met pursuant to call of Mr. Chandler, acting chairman: absent, Mr. Harding ; Mr. Wade and Mr. Gooch being absent on Fort Pillow investigation.

The following witness was examined :

Major General N. J. T. Dana.

Adjourned, to meet on call.

WASHINGTON, *April 27*, 1864.

The committee met pursuant to call.

Witness examined :

Brigadier General S. W. Crawford.

Adjourned, to meet on call.

WASHINGTON, *May 4*, 1864.

The committee met pursuant to call of the chairman : all the members present.

The chairman laid before the committee a communication from the Secretary of War, accompanied by a report of Brigadier General Hoffman, Commissary of Prisoners, urging the committee to proceed to Annapolis and inquire into the condition of prisoners returned from Richmond.

On motion of Mr. GOOCH.

Ordered, That the committee proceed to Annapolis on Friday, the 6th instant, for the purpose of making the above-named investigation.

Mr. Chandler was excused from going, and his personal attendance in the Senate was necessary in relation to the banking bill there pending.

Mr. Loan was also excused, because the election case, in which his right to a seat in the House of Representatives was involved, was pending.

Adjourned to 12 m. to-morrow.

WASHINGTON, *May 5*, 1864.

The committee met pursuant to adjournment : absent, Mr. Odell.

The chairman laid before the committee the report of himself and Mr. Gooch, as sub-committee, with the testimony taken by them in relation to the massacre of United States soldiers at Fort Pillow, Tennessee.

The report was read; and,

On motion of Mr. HARDING, it was

Ordered, That the report of the sub-committee be adopted as the report of the joint committee, and that the chairman and Mr. Gooch be instructed to submit the same to their respective houses, and ask that 20,000 copies of the report and testimony be printed for the use of the Senate, and 40,000 copies for the use of the House of Representatives.

Adjourned to meet on Monday next at 12 m.

On Friday, May 6, the committee (except Messrs. Chandler and Loan) proceeded, with the stenographer of the committee, to Annapolis and Baltimore, Maryland, and examined the condition of our soldiers returned from rebel prisons, and took some testimony.

WASHINGTON, *May 9, 1864.*

The committee met pursuant to adjournment: absent, Messrs. Loan and Odell. The chairman submitted to the committee a written report, to accompany the testimony taken on Friday last, in relation to the manner in which our soldiers had been treated while prisoners in the hands of the rebels.

The report was read and agreed to.

On motion of Mr. HARDING,

Ordered, That the chairman and Mr. Gooch be instructed to submit the report just read, with the accompanying testimony, to their respective houses, and ask that the same be printed and bound with the report and testimony in relation to the massacre of Fort Pillow.

The stenographer presented his bill for services rendered the committee to the 10th instant, which was approved, and the chairman directed to sign it.

Adjourned, to meet on call.

WASHINGTON, *July 2, 1864.*

The committee met pursuant to the call of its chairman: present, the chairman, Messrs. Chandler, Gooch, Julian, Odell, and Loan.

The chairman laid before the committee the following resolution adopted by the Senate on the 29th of June:

Resolved, That the Committee on the Conduct of the War be instructed to inquire what progress has been made in the construction of the iron-clad steam gunboats contracted for in the year 1862; by whom the contract was made on the part of the government; who planned the models of the same, and who is responsible therefor? Have any of them been finished? If so, what was the condition of the vessel after she was launched? Are the other vessels contracted for to be built on a plan or model similar to the Chimo, lately launched at Boston? and all information which may be had touching said gunboats."

After some discussion as to the action of the committee during the recess of Congress,

On motion of Mr. CHANDLER, it was

Ordered, That any two members of the committee shall be empowered to take testimony during the recess of Congress: *Provided*, That before doing so they shall notify in writing the other members of the committee of the time and place, when and where, they propose to take such testimony.

At the suggestion of the chairman, it was

Ordered, That the arrearages due to the stenographer of the committee be paid upon the certificate of the chairman.

On motion of Mr. GOOCH, it was

Ordered, That the amount due to the messenger of the committee be paid on the certificate of the chairman.

Adjourned, to meet on call of the chairman.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *December 13, 1864.*

The committee met pursuant to the call of its chairman: present, the chairman, Messrs. Chandler, Gooch, Odell, and Loan.

The chairman stated to the committee that he had called the committee together in order that some action might be taken in regard to the business before the committee.

After some discussion,

On motion of Mr. CHANDLER, it was

Ordered, That a sub-committee of three, consisting of the chairman, Messrs. Gooch and Odell, be appointed and instructed to proceed to the cities of New York and Boston, and such other places as they may deem expedient, and take testimony, under the resolution of the Senate, dated June 29, 1864, in relation to the construction of iron-clad vessels for the navy.

On motion of Mr. GOOCH, it was

Ordered, That the chairman be instructed to communicate to the Secretary of the Navy a copy of the Senate resolution in relation to iron-clads, and to request that the Secretary furnish the committee with such information in relation to the subject as might be in possession of the department.

On motion of Mr. GOOCH,

The chairman was instructed to address the following communication to Major General N. P. Banks, now in this city:

COMMITTEE ROOM, CONDUCT OF THE WAR,
Washington, D. C., December 13, 1864.

SIR: I am instructed by the Committee on the Conduct of the War to inform you that they will meet you to-morrow, at 10 o'clock a. m., for the purpose of taking your testimony in relation to the Red river expedition, provided you are to remain in the city, and are not otherwise occupied. We do not wish to detain you, or to have our request complied with if it conflicts at all with your instructions from the President or Secretary of War.

I remain, &c.,

B. F. WADE, *Chairman.*

Major General N. P. BANKS,
United States Army.

Adjourned to 10 a. m. to-morrow.

WASHINGTON, *December 14, 1864.*

The committee met pursuant to adjournment: present, the chairman and Messrs. Gooch, Odell, and Loan.

Witness examined:

Major General N. P. Banks.

Adjourned to 11 a. m. to-morrow.

WASHINGTON, *December 15, 1864.*

The committee met pursuant to adjournment: present, the chairman, Messrs. Chandler, Gooch, Odell, and Loan.

After some conversation, adjourned till 11 a. m. to-morrow.

WASHINGTON, *December 16, 1864.*

The committee met pursuant to adjournment: present, the chairman, Messrs. Chandler, Gooch, and Loan.

The chairman laid before the committee the following resolution adopted by the Senate yesterday:

“*Resolved*, That the Committee on the Conduct of the War be instructed to inquire as to the truth of the alleged charge that large numbers of disloyal persons are in the employ of the government in the various navy yards, quartermaster and ordnance departments throughout the country, to the exclusion of loyal men, with power on the part of said committee to send for persons and papers.”

Also the following resolution :

“*Resolved*, That the Committee on the Conduct of the War be directed to inquire into and report the facts concerning the attack on Petersburg, on the 30th day of July, 1864.”

On motion of Mr. CHANDLER, it was

Ordered, that a sub-committee, consisting of Messrs. Chandler, Harding, Julian, and Loan, or so many of them as can go, be appointed to proceed, at their earliest convenience, to the lines of the army, before Petersburg, for the purpose of taking testimony in relation to the battle before Petersburg of July 30, 1864.

Adjourned to 11 a. m. to-morrow.

WASHINGTON, *December* 17, 1864.

The committee met pursuant to adjournment : present, the chairman, Messrs. Chandler and Loan.

The following witness was examined :

Major General A. E. Burnside.

Adjourned, to meet on call of its chairman.

WASHINGTON, *January* 5, 1865.

The committee met pursuant to call of its chairman : present, the chairman, and Messrs. Gooch and Loan.

The following witness was examined :

Major General William B. Franklin.

Mr. LOAN submitted a report from the sub-committee that visited the army of the Potomac to take testimony in relation to the battle before Petersburg on the 30th of July, 1864 : That Messrs. Chandler, Harding, Julian, and Loan, with the stenographer of the committee, left Washington on the 18th of December, on the steamer Baltimore, which had been furnished them by the Navy Department. They visited City Point and the headquarters of the army of the Potomac, examining the following witnesses :

Major General George G. Meade ;

Brevet Major General O. B. Wilcox ;

Major General G. K. Warren ;

Brevet Major General Robert B. Potter ;

Lieutenant Colonel Charles G. Loring ;

Lieutenant Colonel J. L. Van Buren ;

Major General H. J. Hunt ;

Brevet Lieutenant Colonel James C. Duane ;

Major General E. O. C. Ord ;

Brevet Major General Edward Ferrero ;

Lieutenant General U. S. Grant.

Mr. LOAN also reported that other testimony was necessary to complete the examination.

Adjourned till to-morrow at 10 a. m.

WASHINGTON, *January* 7, 1865.

The committee met pursuant to adjournment : present, the chairman, Messrs. Gooch and Loan.

The following witnesses were examined :

Lieutenant Colonel George B. Drake ;

Colonel Isaac Dyer.

Adjourned to meet on call.

WASHINGTON, *January 11, 1865.*

The committee met pursuant to call of its chairman: present, the chairman, Messrs. Chandler, Gooch, and Loan.

The following witnesses were examined:

Captain John Schuyler Crosby;

Brigadier General A. L. Lee.

The chairman, from the sub-committee appointed to proceed to Boston and New York and take testimony under resolution of the Senate in relation to contracts for gunboats, stated that the sub-committee (the chairman, Messrs. Gooch and Odell) left Washington on the 17th of December, and proceeded to the places named, where they examined the following witnesses:

W. L. Hanscom,
Aquila Adams,
George Sewell,
Nathaniel McKay,
Eben Hoyt,
Donald McKay,

George Holloway,
Charles A. Crooker,
Wm. W. W. Wood,
John Ericsson,
Admiral Francis H. Gregory.

The chairman also reported that, in the opinion of the sub-committee, it was necessary to take further testimony upon the subject of the building of light-draught monitors.

WASHINGTON, *January 12, 1865.*

The committee met pursuant to adjournment: present, the chairman, Messrs. Gooch, Julian, and Loan.

The following witnesses were examined:

Colonel J. G. Wilson;

Major D. C. Houston;

Captain Jerome Bradley.

Adjourned, to meet to-morrow at 10 a. m.

WASHINGTON, *January 13, 1865.*

The committee met pursuant to adjournment: present, the chairman, Messrs. Gooch, Odell, and Loan.

On motion of the chairman, communications were ordered to be addressed to the Secretary of War calling for copies of the correspondence between the War Department, General Halleck, and General Banks, in relation to the Red river expedition; also, calling for reports of commissions upon the Ames gun and the Ericsson gun.

The chairman laid before the committee the following resolution of the Senate:

“JANUARY 12, 1865.

“On motion of Mr. Wilson,

“*Resolved*, That the Committee on the Conduct of the War be directed to inquire into the causes of the failure of the late expedition against Wilmington, North Carolina, and to report the facts to the Senate.”

The following witnesses were examined:

Major General N. P. Banks, (recalled;)

Mr. Horatio Ames;

Lieutenant Colonel Henry Pleasants.

Adjourned, to meet on call.

WASHINGTON, *January 17, 1865.*

The committee met pursuant to call of the chairman : all the members present.

The following witnesses were examined :

Major General Benjamin F. Butler ;

Brigadier General John W. Turner.

Adjourned till to-morrow at 10 a. m.

WASHINGTON, *January 18, 1865.*

The committee met pursuant to adjournment : present, the chairman, Messrs. Gooch, Julian, Odell, and Loan.

The following witnesses were examined :

Brevet Brigadier General J. S. Brisbin ;

Mr. Robert C. Parrott.

Adjourned, to meet at 11 o'clock to-morrow.

WASHINGTON, *January 19, 1865.*

The committee met pursuant to adjournment : present, the chairman, Messrs. Chandler, Gooch, Julian, and Loan.

The following witness was examined :

Brigadier General Francis Fessenden.

Adjourned, to meet at 11 a. m. on Saturday next.

WASHINGTON, *January 21, 1865.*

The committee met pursuant to adjournment : present, the chairman, Messrs. Gooch, Julian, Odell, and Loan.

The following witness was examined :

Captain G. V. Fox, Assistant Secretary of the Navy.

Adjourned, to meet on Monday next at 11 o'clock a. m.

WASHINGTON, *January 23, 1865.*

The committee met pursuant to adjournment : present, the chairman, Messrs. Gooch, Julian, and Odell.

The following witnesses were examined :

Captain James Alden, United States navy ;

Surgeon Eugene F. Sawyer ;

Mr. John Lenthall, Navy Department.

The chairman laid before the committee the following communication from the Secretary of War, which was ordered to be spread upon the journal :

“ WAR DEPARTMENT,

“ *Washington City, January 19, 1865.*

“ SIR : I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the communications below indicated, and to inform you that directions have been given that the several requests therein contained be complied with as early as practicable :

“ 1. Letter of January 13, requesting copies of certain reports in reference to the Ames and Ericsson guns.

“ 2. Letter of January 13, requesting copies of all correspondence between the War Department, General Halleck, and General Banks, in relation to the Red river expedition.

“ 3. Letter of January 16, requesting a copy of the testimony before the court of inquiry of which Major General Hancock was president, in relation to the explosion of the mine and the attack upon Petersburg of 30th July, 1864.

“ 4. Letter of January 16, asking that Lieutenant General Grant may be informed of the desire of the committee to obtain testimony in relation to the battle before Petersburg, July 30, 1864, sent to the army of the Potomac for revision.

"5. Letter of January 17, requesting that Lieutenant General Grant, Major General Weitzel, and Lieutenant Colonel Comstock may be directed to appear before the Committee on the Conduct of the War.

"6. Letter of January 18, requesting that Major General Hooker may be directed to appear before the committee as soon as his duties will permit.

"I have the honor to be, your obedient servant,

"EDWIN M. STANTON, *Secretary of War.*

"Hon. B. F. WADE,

"*Chairman of Committee on the Conduct of the War.*"

Adjourned, to meet on call of the chairman.

WASHINGTON, *January 27, 1865.*

The committee met pursuant to call of its chairman: present, the chairman, Messrs. Gooch, Julian, and Loan.

The following witness was examined:

Sergeant C. W. Thurston.

The chairman informed the committee that Senator Buckalew, of Pennsylvania, had been appointed upon the committee, in place of Senator Harding, of Oregon, resigned.

Adjourned, to meet on call.

WASHINGTON, *January 30, 1865.*

The committee met pursuant to call: present, the chairman, Messrs. Gooch, Julian, Odell, and Loan.

The following witnesses were examined:

Mr. Albert D. Richardson;

Mr. Junius Henri Browne;

Mr. Alexander Arnold;

Colonel John S. Clark;

Brigadier General William Dwight.

The chairman laid before the committee a communication from the War Department, transmitting copies of correspondence in relation to the Red river expedition.

Adjourned, to meet on call.

WASHINGTON, *February 1, 1865.*

The committee met pursuant to call of the chairman: present, the chairman, Messrs. Gooch, Julian, and Loan.

The following witness was examined:

Brigadier General M. R. Patrick.

Adjourned till to-morrow at 11 o'clock.

WASHINGTON, *February 4, 1865.*

The committee met pursuant to adjournment: present, the chairman, Messrs. Chandler, Gooch, and Loan.

The following witnesses were examined:

Brigadier General Thomas Kilby Smith;

Mr. George P. Floyd.

The chairman laid before the committee a communication from the Navy Department, transmitting correspondence in relation to operations against the defences of Wilmington.

Adjourned till Monday next at 10 o'clock.

WASHINGTON, *February 6, 1865.*

The committee met pursuant to adjournment: present, the chairman, Messrs. Chandler, Gooch, Julian, Odell, and Loan.

The chairman laid before the committee a draught of a report to accompany the testimony taken in relation to the explosion of the mine, and the assault upon the enemy's lines before Petersburg, on the 30th of July, 1864.

The report was read.

Mr. CHANDLER moved that the report be adopted, and that the chairman be instructed to report the same, with the accompanying testimony, at once to the Senate.

Mr. ODELL said that, as he was not present when the testimony was taken, and had not been able to read it, he could not express an opinion upon the subject, and, therefore, could not vote for the adoption of the report.

The motion of Mr. Chandler was then agreed to.

Adjourned till 10 o'clock a. m. to-morrow.

WASHINGTON, *February 7, 1865.*

The committee met pursuant to adjournment: present, the chairman, Messrs. Chandler, Gooch, and Loan.

The following witnesses were examined:

Major General William H. Emory;

Major General Godfrey Weitzel.

Mr. GOOCH laid before the committee the following resolutions of the House, which were ordered to be spread upon the journal:

“JANUARY 30, 1865.

“On motion of Mr. GRINNELL,

“*Resolved*, That the Committee on the Conduct of the War be directed to inquire into the treatment of the men, women, and children of African descent (made free by the President's proclamation) by the 14th army corps, commanded by Major General Jefferson C. Davis, of General Sherman's army, on its recent march from Atlanta to Savannah, and report thereon at their earliest convenience.”

“FEBRUARY 6, 1865.

“On motion of Mr. GARFIELD,

“*Resolved*, That the Committee on the Conduct of the War be directed to make a full investigation and report upon the military campaigns of Major General W. S. Rosecrans, from the beginning of his service in Western Virginia to the conclusion of his recent campaign in Missouri.”

Adjourned, to meet on call.

WASHINGTON, *February 11, 1865.*

The committee met pursuant to call of the chairman: present, the chairman, Messrs. Chandler, Gooch, Julian, and Odell.

The following witnesses were examined:

Lieutenant General U. S. Grant;

Engineer Alban C. Stimers.

Adjourned, to meet on Monday next.

WASHINGTON, *February* 13, 1865.

The committee met pursuant to adjournment: present, the chairman, Messrs. Chandler, Gooch, Julian, Odell, and Loan.

The chairman laid before the committee a draught of a report to accompany the testimony relating to the heavy ordnance now in use in the army and naval services of this government.

The report was read.

On motion of Mr. JULIAN the report was unanimously adopted, and the chairman was instructed to report the same, with the accompanying testimony, to the Senate.

Adjourned, to meet on call.

WASHINGTON, *February* 16, 1865.

The committee met pursuant to call of the chairman: present, the chairman, Messrs. Gooch, Julian, Odell, and Loan.

The following witnesses were examined:

Major General Henry W. Halleck;

Brigadier General William Dwight.

Adjourned till 10 a. m. to-morrow.

WASHINGTON, *February* 17, 1865.

The committee met pursuant to adjournment: present, the chairman, and Messrs. Gooch and Loan.

The following witness was examined:

B. F. Isherwood.

Adjourned, to meet on call.

WASHINGTON, *February* 28, 1865.

The committee met pursuant to call: present, the chairman, Messrs. Gooch, Odell, and Loan.

The following witness was examined:

Brevet Brigadier General C. B. Comstock.

Adjourned, to meet on call of its chairman.

WASHINGTON, *March* 6, 1865.

The committee met pursuant to call: present, the chairman, Messrs. Chandler, Buckalew, Gooch, Odell, and Loan.

Some discussion took place in regard to the course to be pursued by the committee under the concurrent resolution of the two houses of Congress extending their time for ninety days.

The concurrent resolution is as follows:

Resolved by the Senate of the United States, (the House of Representatives concurring,) That in order to enable the Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War to complete their investigation of certain important matters now before them, and which they have not been able to complete, by reason of inability to obtain important witnesses, they be authorized to continue their sessions for thirty days after the close of the present Congress, and to place their testimony and reports in the hands of the Secretary of the Senate.

Resolved, further, That the Secretary of the Senate is hereby directed to cause to be printed of the reports and accompanying testimony of the Committee on the Conduct of the

War 5,000 copies for the use of the Senate and 10,000 copies for the use of the House of Representatives of the present Congress.

“Passed by the Senate February 20, 1865.

“Passed by the House of Representatives March 1, 1865, with an amendment extending the time to ninety days.

“Amendment of the House concurred in by the Senate on March 2, 1865.”

Adjourned till 10 a. m. to-morrow.

WASHINGTON, *March 7, 1865.*

The committee met pursuant to adjournment: present, the chairman, Messrs. Buckalew, Gooch, Odell, and Loan.

The following witness was examined:

Rear-Admiral D. D. Porter.

Adjourned till 10 a. m. to-morrow.

WASHINGTON, *March 9, 1865.*

The committee met pursuant to adjournment: present, the chairman, Messrs. Buckalew, Gooch, and Loan.

The following witnesses were examined:

Mr. Wellington W. Withenbury;

Mr. John M. Martin.

On motion of Mr. BUCKALEW,

Ordered, That arrangements be made for the immediate printing of the testimony taken by the committee, and that the Superintendent of Public Printing be directed to furnish the committee with a dozen copies, in sheets, as the same may be printed, in order to enable the members more conveniently to examine the testimony previous to drawing up the report.

On motion of Mr. LOAN,

Ordered, That a sub-committee proceed to North Carolina, or such places as they may deem necessary, to take testimony of officers in the field relating to the Fort Fisher expedition.

On motion of Mr. LOAN,

Ordered, That the War Department be requested to notify General Rosecrans to appear before the committee to testify.

Adjourned till 10 a. m. on Saturday next.

WASHINGTON, *March 11, 1865.*

The committee met pursuant to adjournment: present, the chairman, Messrs. Chandler, Buckalew, Gooch, and Loan.

The following witness was examined:

Major General Joseph Hooker.

Adjourned till 10 a. m. on Monday next.

WASHINGTON, *March 13, 1865.*

The committee met pursuant to adjournment: present, the chairman, Messrs. Chandler, Buckalew, Gooch, and Loan.

The following witnesses were examined:

Major General Joseph Hooker;

Mr. Jesse H. Leavenworth.

On the suggestion of the chairman, who stated that he was obliged to be absent from the city for ten days or a fortnight, it was

Ordered, That such members of the committee as may be present be authorized to act as the committee, both in regard to taking testimony and such other action as they may deem necessary in the performance of the duties required of them by Congress.

Adjourned to 10 a. m. to-morrow.

WASHINGTON, *March* 14, 1865.

The committee met pursuant to adjournment: present, Messrs. Buckalew, Gooch, and Loan.

The following witnesses were examined:

Mr. John S. Smith;
 Lieut. Comd'r K. R. Breese, U. S. N.;
 Lieut. Comd'r T. O. Selfridge, U. S. N.;
 Captain S. M. Robbins;
 Mr. D. D. Colley;
 Major Scott J. Anthony;
 Mr. S. G. Colley;
 John Lenthall.

Adjourned to 7 p. m. to-morrow.

WASHINGTON, *March* 15, 1865.

The committee met pursuant to adjournment: present, Messrs. Buckalew, Gooch, and Loan.

The following witnesses were examined:

Mr. John Evans;
 Mr. A. C. Hunt.

On motion of Mr. LOAN:

Ordered, That the Secretary of War be requested to furnish the committee with copies of all papers in the possession of the War Department relating to the attack by Colonel Chivington upon the Cheyennes, on Sand creek, on the 29th of November last.

On motion of Mr. LOAN:

Ordered, That a list of interrogatories be prepared and sent by mail to Colonel Chivington in relation to the attack by him upon the Indians on Sand creek.

Adjourned, to meet on call.

WASHINGTON, *March* 27, 1865.

The committee met pursuant to call of its chairman: present, the chairman and Messrs. Gooch and Julian.

Mr. GOOCH reported that on the 23d of March he had called upon Governor Yates, at his room, directed the stenographer to read to Governor Yates the testimony of Captain Breese, of the United States navy, relating to Governor Yates's visit to the department of the Gulf in the spring of 1864, and had then taken the testimony of Governor Yates upon the subject.

Ordered, That the testimony of Governor Yates be printed with the testimony relating to the Red river expedition.

The chairman stated that since his return he had been informed that General Halleck had refused to send for General Rosecrans, as requested by the committee on the 9th instant.

On motion of Mr. JULIAN:

Ordered, That the chairman prepare and send to General Rosecrans certain interrogatories, to be answered in writing; or, if General Rosecrans prefer, summon him to appear before the committee.

On motion of Mr. GOOCH:

Ordered, That the Secretary of War be requested to furnish the committee with a statement of the amounts and cost of ice used at the various hospitals connected with the army.

On motion of Mr. JULIAN,

Ordered, That the chairman instruct the Sergeant-at-arms of the Senate to make arrangements to enable the committee to go to North Carolina, or wherever they may deem necessary, to take the testimony of officers in the field.

Adjourned, to meet on call.

WASHINGTON, *April 15, 1865.*

The committee met pursuant to call of its chairman: present, the chairman, Messrs. Chandler, Gooch, and Julian.

Ordered, That it be entered upon the journal that the committee, according to previous arrangement, left Washington for the purpose of taking testimony, in pursuance of the order of the committee of March 27; proceeded to Fortress Monroe, from thence to Richmond, Virginia; and then, in view of the uncertainty of being able to reach the witnesses desired, it was determined to return to Washington, where the committee arrived last night.

After some discussion in relation to the murder of Mr. Lincoln and the attempted assassination of Mr. Seward, and the consequent change in the administration,

On motion of Mr. CHANDLER,

The chairman was instructed to address the following communication to President Johnson :

COMMITTEE ROOM, CONDUCT OF THE WAR,
Washington, D. C., April 15, 1865.

SIR: I have been instructed by the Committee on the Conduct of the War to inform you that your old associates upon that committee would be pleased to wait upon you at such time as may suit your convenience. They have just returned from the city of Richmond, where they saw and heard many things which they deem it would be well to make known to you at the present time. Please be kind enough to communicate to us what time would be agreeable to you to receive us.

I remain yours, respectfully,

B. F. WADE, *Chairman of Committee.*

ANDREW JOHNSON, *President of the United States.*

Adjourned to 10 a. m. on Monday next.

WASHINGTON, *April 17, 1865.*

The committee met pursuant to adjournment: present, the chairman, Messrs. Chandler, Gooch, and Julian.

Ordered, That it be entered upon the journal that, in pursuance to appointment, the members of the committee present, accompanied by Hon. John Covode, by invitation of the committee, waited upon the President yesterday, and had an exceedingly satisfactory interview with him.

Adjourned, to meet on call.

WASHINGTON, *April 21, 1865.*

The committee met pursuant to call: present, the chairman, Messrs. Chandler, Gooch, and Julian.

The following witness was examined:

Colonel Charles C. Dwight.

Adjourned to 10 a. m. to-morrow.

WASHINGTON, *April 22, 1865.*

The committee met pursuant to adjournment: present, the chairman, Messrs. Chandler, Gooch, and Julian.

The following witness was examined:

Major General W. S. Rosecrans.

Adjourned to 10 a. m. on Monday next.

WASHINGTON, *April 24, 1865.*

The committee met pursuant to adjournment: present, the chairman, Messrs. Chandler, Gooch, and Julian.

The following witness examined:

Major General W. S. Rosecrans.

On motion of Mr. GOOCH,

Ordered, That the War Department be requested to furnish the committee copies of the following papers: Official reports concerning the battle of Rich mountain, by General McClellan and General Rosecrans, with sub-reports accompanying the same. Official reports of General Grant and General Rosecrans of battles of Iuka and Corinth.

Adjourned to 10 a. m. to-morrow.

WASHINGTON, *April 25, 1865.*

The committee met pursuant to adjournment: present, the chairman, Messrs. Chandler, Gooch and Julian.

The following witness was examined:

Mr. B. F. Isherwood.

Adjourned, to meet on call.

WASHINGTON, *May 3, 1865.*

The committee met pursuant to call: present, the chairman, Messrs. Chandler, Gooch, Julian, and Loan.

The chairman stated that there had been no formal meeting of the committee since the 25th of April, but the members had had informal meetings in the committee-room; that he had been engaged in carefully reading the testimony taken by the committee, and directing the preparation of reports to accompany the same, which he was ready to submit to the committee.

After some discussion,

On motion of Mr. LOAN,

Ordered, That the committee proceed to-morrow to read and pass upon the reports prepared under the direction of the chairman.

Adjourned to 12 m. to-morrow.

WASHINGTON, *May 4, 1865.*

The committee met pursuant to adjournment: present, the chairman, Messrs. Chandler, Gooch, Julian, and Loan.

The chairman laid before the committee written reports to accompany the testimony upon the following subjects:

The massacre of Cheyenne Indians,

Light-draught monitors, and

Fort Fisher expedition.

The reports were severally read, and after discussion and amendment, were agreed to.

On motion of Mr. LOAN,

Resolved, That a copy of the report and accompanying testimony in relation to the massacre of Cheyenne Indians, on the 29th of November last, be submitted to the President of the United States; and that he be informed that it is the opinion of the Committee on the Conduct of the War that Governor Evans, of Colorado Territory, should be immediately removed from office, and that Colonel Chivington and Major Anthony should be at once arrested and brought before a military commission for trial, for acts unbecoming officers of the United States military service, and violating the usages of civilized warfare.

Adjourned to 12 m. to-morrow.

WASHINGTON, *May 5, 1865.*

The committee met pursuant to adjournment: present, the chairman, Messrs. Chandler, Gooch, Julian, and Loan.

The chairman laid before the committee written reports to accompany the testimony upon the following subjects:

Army of the Potomac—General Hooker; and Red river expedition.

The reports were severally read, and, after discussion and amendment, were agreed to.

Mr. GOOCH said, in relation to the report upon the Red river expedition, that he differed from the conclusions in the report, and therefore he could not vote in favor of its adoption. He, therefore, asked leave to prepare and submit a statement expressing his views upon the subject, to accompany the report of the committee.

Leave was accordingly granted.

On motion of Mr. GOOCH,

Ordered, That the War Department be requested to furnish the committee with copies of the reports of General Howard and General Devens in relation to the battle of Chancellorsville.

On motion of Mr. CHANDLER,

Ordered, That the committee proceed to investigate the terms of surrender lately proposed to the rebel armies by Generals Grant and Sherman, and that the War Department be requested to direct Generals Grant, Sherman, and Weitzel, to appear before the committee as witnesses.

Adjourned to 1 p. m. to-morrow.

WASHINGTON, *May 6, 1865.*

The committee met pursuant to adjournment: present, the chairman, Messrs. Chandler, Gooch, Julian, and Loan.

The chairman laid before the committee a written report to accompany the testimony upon the following subject:

Army of the Potomac—General Meade.

The report was read, and, after discussion and amendment, was agreed to.

Adjourned to 11 a. m. on Monday next.

WASHINGTON, *May 8, 1865.*

The committee met pursuant to adjournment: present, the chairman, Messrs. Chandler, Gooch, Julian, and Loan.

On motion of Mr. JULIAN,

Ordered, That the chairman be instructed to audit the accounts of the members of the committee, as rendered by them, for expenses incurred upon service of the committee; and also to audit the accounts of the stenographer and clerk.

Adjourned, to meet on call.

WASHINGTON, *May 15, 1865.*

The committee met pursuant to the call of its chairman: present, the chairman, Messrs. Chandler, Gooch, Julian, and Loan.

After discussion,

On motion by Mr. CHANDLER,

Resolved, That the committee insist that Generals Sherman and Weitzel shall appear before them as witnesses at the earliest opportunity; and to that end, respectfully request that the Secretary of War make peremptory orders to that effect, unless considerations of public interest render it absolutely impracticable.

The chairman laid before the committee a brief general report, to accompany the special reports and testimony.

The report was agreed to.

Two or three of the members having expressed a desire to return home soon, if their presence here was not really necessary,

On motion of Mr. LOAN,

Ordered, That such members of the committee as remain in the city be authorized to take the testimony of those witnesses who have been sent for, but have not yet appeared before the committee; and that when that has been done, or sooner if they shall deem it advisable, the chairman shall deliver to the Secretary of the Senate the reports already adopted, together with the accompanying testimony; whereupon the committee shall be adjourned *sine die*.

Adjourned, to meet on call.

WASHINGTON, *May* 18, 1865.

The committee met pursuant to call: present, the chairman, Messrs. Gooch and Loan.

The following witnesses were examined:

Lieutenant General U. S. Grant;

Major General Godfrey Weitzel.

General Weitzel stated that the first notification he had received that the committee desired him to appear before them was on the night of the 16th instant, while he was in Virginia.

Adjourned to 11 a. m. on Saturday next.

WASHINGTON, *May* 20, 1865.

The committee met pursuant to adjournment: present, the chairman, and Mr. Loan.

The chairman laid before the committee a communication from Major General W. T. Sherman, dated the 19th instant, stating that he had just received, for the first time, notice that the committee desired him to appear before them, and that he would appear at such time as the committee might name.

On motion of Mr. LOAN,

Ordered, That the chairman notify General Sherman that the committee will take his testimony on Monday next.

Adjourned to 11 a. m. on Monday next.

WASHINGTON, *May* 22, 1865.

The committee met pursuant to adjournment: present, the chairman, and Mr. Loan.

The following witness was examined:

Major General W. T. Sherman.

No further business appearing before the committee, in pursuance of order of 15th instant,

The committee adjourned *sine die*.

B. F. WADE, *Chairman*.