

AMENDMENT OF RULES.

MARCH 18, 1879.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. SPRINGER offered the following

RESOLUTION:

Resolved, That the rules of the last House of Representatives shall be the rules of this House until otherwise ordered, with the following amendments thereto, namely:

Rule 76 shall be amended so as to read as follows:

76. It shall be the duty of the following committees to take into consideration all executive communications and such other propositions as may be presented and referred to them by the House, namely:

The Committee on Appropriations, matters relating to the legislative, executive, and judicial expenses, and for sundry civil expenses of the government, except matters relating to the Department of Agriculture, which shall be referred to the Committee on Agriculture.

The Committee on Foreign Affairs, matters relating to consular and diplomatic expenses.

The Committee on Military Affairs, matters relating to the expenses of the Army, and of the Military Academy, and for fortifications.

The Committee on Naval Affairs, matters relating to the expenses of the Navy and the Naval Academy.

The Committee on Indian Affairs, matters relating to the expenses of the Indian Department.

The Committee on the Post-Office and Post-Roads, matters relating to the expenses of the Post-Office Department and for mail-transportation by ocean-steamers.

In preparing bills of appropriations for other objects, said committees shall not include appropriations for carrying into effect treaties made by the United States; and where appropriation bills shall be referred to any of the foregoing committees for their consideration which contain appropriations for carrying a treaty into effect, and for other objects, they shall propose such amendments as shall prevent appropriations for carrying a treaty into effect being included in the same bill with appropriations for other objects.

Rule 77 shall be amended so as to read as follows:

It shall be the duty of the several committees mentioned in Rule 76, within thirty days after their appointment, at every session of Congress commencing on the first Monday of December, to report the general appropriation bills, namely:

The Committee on Appropriations, bills for the legislative, executive, and judicial expenses, for all deficiencies, and for sundry civil expenses.

The Committee on Foreign Affairs, the bill for the consular and diplomatic expenses.

The Committee on Military Affairs, the bills for the expenses of the Army and of the Military Academy and for fortifications.

The Committee on Naval Affairs, the bill for the expenses of the Navy and the Naval Academy.

The Committee on Indian Affairs, the bill for the expenses of the Indian Department.

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, the bill for the payment of invalid and other pensions.

The Committee on the Post-Office and Post-Roads, the bills for the expenses of Post-Office Department and for mail-transportation by ocean-steamers.

The Committee on Agriculture, the bill for the expenses of the Department of Agriculture.

In case any of said committees shall fail to make such report within said time, they shall report the reasons of such failure. And said committees shall have leave to report said bills (for reference only) at any time. In all cases where appropriations cannot be made specific in amount, the maximum to be expended shall be stated; and each appropriation bill, when reported from the committee, shall, in the concluding clause, state the sum-total of all the items contained in said bill.

The following additional rules shall be a part of the rules of this House, namely:

167. All private bills hereafter introduced which have been printed by order of either house of the preceding Congress shall not be again printed at the expense of the government until after a reference to a committee and report thereon with a favorable recommendation.

168. All private bills granting pensions shall hereafter be presented with an accompanying petition of the claimant, and both petition and bill shall be deposited in the petition-box and referred to the appropriate committee without printing; which committee shall consider all such petitions and bills, and shall report from time to time a general bill, which shall include therein the names of all persons whom said committee shall find to be entitled to pensions, and accompany each bill with a report upon each case included therein, briefly stating the facts thereof; which general bill and accompanying report shall, when reported to the House, be printed and referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the Private Calendar.

AMENDMENTS.

Mr. BLACKBURN offered the following substitute:

Resolved, That a committee of five members be appointed by the Speaker to revise and simplify the rules of the House; that they have leave to sit in vacation, and shall report on or before the first day of the regular session in December next.

Resolved, That until such report is made and adopted the rules of the Forty-fifth Congress be, and are hereby, adopted for the Forty-sixth Congress.

Mr. GARFIELD offered the following amendment to Mr. BLACKBURN'S:

Add to the second resolution of the substitute these words:

Except the last paragraph of Rule 120, which shall be so amended as to read as follows:

Nor shall any provision in any such bill or amendment thereto, changing existing law, be in order.

Mr. HOOKER offered the following substitute:

Resolved, That the Committee to Revise and Reform the Rules of this House be, and they are hereby, instructed to report, at an early day, an amendment of the rules of the House, so as to provide—

1. That the Committee on Military Affairs shall receive the estimates and report the bills for the annual support of the Army of the United States, and receive the estimates and report the bill for the annual support of the Military Academy at West Point.

2. That the Committee on Naval Affairs shall receive the estimates and report the appropriation bills for annual support of the Navy of the United States.

3. That the Committee on Foreign Affairs shall receive the estimates and report the appropriation bill for the maintenance and support of the diplomatic and consular system of the United States.

4. That the Committee on Indian Affairs shall receive the estimates and report the appropriation bills for carrying out the treaties and obligations of the Government of the United States with the various Indian tribes.

5. That the Committee on Post-Office and Post-Roads shall receive the estimates and make the appropriations for support of the Post-Office Department of the government.

6. That the Committee on Commerce shall receive the estimates of the Engineer Department, and introduce the annual appropriation bills for improvement of rivers and harbors, and for the construction and expense of light-houses.

7. That the Committee on Invalid Pensions shall report the appropriation bills for the payment of pensions, &c.

8. That the Committee on Appropriations shall receive the estimates and report the appropriations for the Legislative, Executive, and Judicial Departments of the Government; and the Sundry Civil Service bill, and all deficiency bills.

9. That the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds be authorized to report all appropriation bills for such public buildings as the needs of the government may require.

Mr. HUNTON offered the following amendment:

That the Committee on District of Columbia receive the estimates and report the appropriations for the District of Columbia.

Mr. AIKEN offered the following amendment to the resolution of Mr. HOOKER:

That the Committee on Agriculture shall receive the estimates and make the appropriations for the Agricultural Department.