

The second session of the thirty-first Congress has now been sitting more than two weeks. Judging of what it has as yet done, by the history of the first few weeks of other sessions which have preceded it, we cannot expect that much business of any kind has as yet transpired in that august assembly. It is usual to squander the month of December; a mere organization being about all that is accomplished before the Christmas holidays. This was more than was done during the first month of the last session, some five weeks having been consumed in the election of a Speaker, Clerk, &c.

If patriotism and a desire to legislate alone for the good of the country actuated those assembled in Washington, not a week would pass away ere bills of greatest importance to the country, and especially to California, would receive the most earnest attention and action of that body. If they would but reflect that the first month of the last session was wasted in a squabble as to whether Mr. Winthrop or some one else should be Speaker; and the next eight months in keeping California out of the Union, and that subsequent to the admission but very little legislation for our benefit was done by that body, and that our necessities require much, they could but act promptly and efficiently in our behalf.

We want a wise system of settling land claims, granting donations or pre-emptions to actual settlers and encouraging by all necessary means the permanent occupation of the soil, not by speculators but by farmers and others who intend that California shall be their permanent home. For this purpose a thorough survey of the State must be made and the public land brought into market. Congress should also place California above the fear of bankruptcy by giving her a dowry, not from the U. S. Treasury, properly speaking, but from her own fund which has been collected in her ports and from her domain. For years she had to shift for herself, unaided, uncared for.

From the nation she received officers but no laws, taxation but no representation; had to support all her establishments, and pay at the same time millions under the name of customs. Congress must give us back all this money and much more. It is but our

due, our right. We need and must have large grants of land for State and educational purposes. We must have a system of mails, more effective and liberal by far than any hitherto granted us. We must have letters and newspapers come and depart without anything like the present restrictive tariff of unjust rates now oppressively weighing down our intercourse and interests.

We must have treaties with our Indian tribes, and of any acts additional are necessary to enable the commissioners already appointed to carry into effect the object for which they have been set apart, we look to the present session of Congress to pass them. We want to know, and must know upon what terms the mines are to be operated in. And here we tell Congress that they may at once give up all idea of ever reaping any revenue from that source. It never has been done, and we do not believe it can be done in California.

There must nevertheless be some laws respecting the placers, and more especially in reference to mines as distinguished from placer deposits. Mines can only be worked to advantage by companies and capital. These will not be formed and invested unless men can obtain a title to sufficient extent of auriferous veins to justify a heavy expenditure. We have before given our views upon this head. To the present session we look for an early and just attention to our wants. These with many other questions will come before that body, and the claims and rights of our state must no longer be neglected or trifled with.

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A BRITISH CONSUL.—We would earnestly call attention to a communication in our paper to-day, upon the above subject. In a city like ours, so intimately connected in its commercial matters especially with British subjects and interests, in whose harbor from so many masts the cross of St. George is seen floating, in whose business so many subjects born under its protection and many who still hail it as their country's flag, the presence of a Consul is too evidently needed and his services too manifestly a necessity to require argument. It is only wonderful that the British Government, usually the most prompt