

on the bond of Samuel S. Foster, formerly Consul at Apia, and also to set aside any judgment already secured against them on their bond. Foster was appointed Consul in 1874 and was ordered to remain at San Francisco for several weeks awaiting instructions from the State Department. About a year after his appointment a question was raised as to his right to receive his salary during all the time he was awaiting instructions, and his accounts were disallowed to the extent of \$298. However, he continued to draw his salary thereafter until the end of his term in September, 1876, and the drafts were honored in every instance. In 1877 Foster died.

The matter of the disallowed accounts slumbered for twelve years until Controller Durham, in his zeal to make some capital for the Democratic Administration, unearthed it. In his examination he was gracious enough to allow Foster \$85 for the errors which he had made against himself in drawing up the necessary vouchers for his salary. Deducting this \$85 from the \$298 would leave a balance of \$213, and to collect this a suit was brought against Foster's bondsmen, Bee and Bell. It is argued that the Government has no further recourse upon the bondsmen after it had, through its officers, of its own accord paid the money now in dispute, but to avoid further controversy the bill introduced by Senator Stewart to-day was prepared.

A BIT OF RED TAPE.

The Story Back of a Bill Just Introduced.

WASHINGTON, May 27.—Senator Stewart to-day introduced a bill to relieve Frederick A. Bee and William Bell from all obligation arising as sureties