

The Baton Rouge Gazette.

VOLUME XXXIV NUMBER 5.

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA, SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 1852.

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Legislative Proceedings.

SENATE.—FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27th.
The Senate met pursuant to adjournment.

Present Hon. J. B. Plaquemine, Lieut. Governor & President of the Senate in the chair. And 19 Senators present.

By a message from the House through their assistant Clerk, the Senate was informed of the concurrence of the House with amendments to the Bill, entitled:

"An act relative to the appropriation of lands for Rail Roads, and other works of public utility."

And requested the concurrence of the Senate to the following entitled Bills, and resolutions:

"An act relative to runaway slaves committed to Jail in the parish of West Feliciana."

"Joint Resolutions concerning the State Library. And Joint Resolutions granting the use of the Rotunda and one of the rooms on the lower floor of the State House to the Methodist Episcopal Church for the purpose of holding a fair."

On motion of Mr. Benjamin the Senate took up:

"An act relative to the Orleans Navigation Company."

On motion the rules were suspended the Bill underwent its several readings and passed.

The Secretary was directed to inform the House of the concurrence therein.

On motion the Senate took up the said Resolution of the House.

"Joint Resolutions concerning State Library." (Ordering State Librarian to keep the same open from 9 A. M. to 3 P. M., and during the session to 6 P. M.) concurred in.

Mr. Benjamin, in behalf of the Judiciary committee reported favorably on:

"An act regulating the manner of making Judicial sales."

The rules being suspended, and after having undergone its several readings was passed.

Mr. Burthe in behalf of the committee on Enrollments, reported as only Enrolls of the following entitled Bill of the House:

"An act for the relief of the citizens Bank of Louisiana."

The Senate then took up the following entitled Bills of the House, which having undergone their several readings were concurred in:

"An act to reduce the price of Seminary lands donated by act of Congress to the State of Louisiana 30th March 1827."

"An act to amend the 1138 article of the Code of practice."

On motion the Senate adjourned to Monday morning at 10 o'clock A. M.

House.—Friday, Feb. 27th, 1852.
The House met pursuant to adjournment—75 members present.

The following members asked and obtained leave to record their votes in favor of the final passage of the Citizens Bank Bill, viz:

Messrs. Foucher, Brinly, and Dalferes, and Mr. Phillips asked and obtained the same privilege and voted in the affirmative.

Mr. H. S. Campbell, offered the following resolutions:

Resolved, By the Senate and House of Representatives, of the State of Louisiana, in General Assembly convened,

That the acts passed at the late session of Congress known as the Compromise measures, form in their mutual dependence and connection, a system the most conciliating for the entire country, which under the circumstances could be obtained; that while we regard the Compromise honorable, constitutional, and expedient, and that its faithful observance and execution on the part of the Federal Government will entitle it to the constant respect and support from the State of Louisiana.

Mr. C. C. Lathrop, offered the following:

Resolved, by the Senate and House of Representatives, of the State of Louisiana, in General Assembly convened, That the use of the Rotunda, and one of the rooms, unoccupied on the lower floor of this House be granted to the Ladies of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Baton Rouge, on Thursday evening next, for the purpose of holding a fair.

On motion, said resolution was adopted, and the clerk was directed to request the concurrence of the Senate thereto.

By a message from the Senate through their Secretary, the concurrence of the House was requested in the following Bills of the Senate:

"An act to reduce the salaries and the Contingent funds of State officers."

"Joint Resolution relative to Certificates issued by Richard Loucks late Land Register."

"Joint Resolutions relative to the Compromise Measure."

By the same message, the signature of the Speaker was requested to the enrolled Bill of the Senate entitled:

"An act for the relief of the Citizens Bank."

Mr. Benit having represented the above Bill as correctly enrolled, the Speaker signed the same, and the Clerk was directed to inform the Senate thereof.

"An act to abolish the usury laws passed."

"An act concerning Bills of Exchange passed."

The House then adjourned to Monday morning at 10 o'clock A. M.

Mr. Moise presented the credentials of Mr. Charles Tannochel, duly elected 11th parish of St. Bernard, vice Hon. Victor Jorda, deceased.

Mr. Baillien, on behalf of the Committee on Enrollments, reported as duly enrolled the following entitled Bills:

An act to reduce the price of the Seminary lands donated by act of Congress to the State of Louisiana, 3d March, 1827.

An act relative to the Orleans Navigation Company.

Mr. Day, on behalf of the Committee on Penitentiaries, reported the following bills: An act concerning the Penitentiary.

An act to provide for the building of two hundred additional cells in the Penitentiary.

An act to provide for the settlement with Wm. Pratt, of the firm of McLattou, Pratt & Co, late lessees. An act to make a settlement with James A. McLattou, Chas. G. McLattou, and George Ward, belonging to the firm of McLattou, Pratt & Co, late lessees, now constituting the firm of McLattou, Ward & Co, present lessees. Referred to Committee of the whole.

On motion the House resolved itself in Committee of the whole to take into consideration the following entitled bills: An act to provide for the sale of a portion of the swamp and overflowed lands granted to the State by act of Congress, approved March 2, 1819.

After some time the Committee rose and reported progress of the same. An act to regulate the rights of married women—referred to Judiciary Committee.

An act to enter the payment of the Contingent Tax by sheriffs and collectors—concurred in. An act prohibiting card playing in the State—referred to Committee of the whole.

Mr. Rhoney offered the following proviso, to be inserted at the end of the last section of the bill, except a little private gain of *vingt et un*, and raise draw poker with a full deck.

Adjourned until to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock, A. M.

SENATE.—FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27th, 1852.—Present: Hon. J. B. Plaquemine, Lieut. Governor and President of the Senate, in the chair—19 Senators present.

By a message from the House through their chief Clerk, Mr. John B. Layet, the concurrence of the Senate was requested to the following entitled Bills of the House.

An act to amend the Code of Practice, and requesting the signature of the President of the Senate to the following entitled enrolled Bill of the House: An act to reduce the price of Seminary Lands donated by act of Congress to the State of Louisiana 30th March, 1827. An act relative to the New Orleans Navigation Company.

By a message from the Governor thro' his private secretary the Senate was informed that the Governor had signed the following joint resolution of the Senate.

Resolution enjoining upon all State officers who are required to make reports to the General Assembly to cause the same to be printed by the State Printer and present them to the Legislature within the first week of each session.

By the same message the Private Secretary of the Governor delivered also the following written message which was read:

EXECUTIVE ORDER.
Baton Rouge, March 1st, 1852.

To the SENATE: I have examined with care and attention the act entitled "An act for the relief of the Citizens Bank of Louisiana," passed by both Houses of the General Assembly, and presented to me for my approval on the 26th of February ult. I regret to be constrained, under a proper sense of what I deem to be the constitutional obligations to the Bill, to return it to the House where it originated. I refer to the same by my objections presented to that body, in returning a former Bill, entitled "An act for the eventual cancellation of the bonds of the State, issued for the use of the Citizens Bank of Louisiana," as the reasons there expressed apply with equal force to the Bill now returned.

(Signed) J. OS. WALKER.
On motion of Mr. Kenner the above message was made the special order of the day for Wednesday the 10th instant to be taken up immediately after the reading of the Journal.

By the same message the Senate was informed that the Governor had approved and signed the following entitled Bill:

An act relative to sales of succession property.

On motion adjourned to 10 o'clock to-morrow morning.

House.—Tuesday, March 2d, 1852.—71 members present.

Mr. McCutchen presented a petition on the subject of temperance, which was laid on the table, as the same matter had been previously disposed of by the House.

Mr. Thompson, of Jackson, introduced the following resolution: Resolved, that the commissioners appointed by the Governor, pursuant to an act approved 30th of December, 1848, to raise the codes and consolidate and revise the statutes of this State, be instructed and required to report to this House, on Monday the 8th instant, the reasons, if any they have, why it is they have not complied with the provisions of an act, entitled An act in relation to the digests of the laws of this State, approved March 21st, 1850. Be it further resolved, that the clerk of this House transmit a copy of the above resolution to said commissioners—adopted.

Mr. Rivers offered the following: Resolved, that the sum of one thousand dollars be hereby appropriated out of the contingent fund of the House of Representatives for the purchase of the full length portrait of the late President of the United States Zachary Taylor, painted by T. B. Thorpe, and now being exhibited at the Capitol; and that the said money shall be paid out of said fund and on the certificate of the speaker of the House; that the said portrait has been delivered, framed and completed for the use of said House.

On the adoption of said resolution, Messrs. Thompson, of Livingston, and Ryan, called for the yeas and nays. On the roll being called it appeared that 67 members voted in the affirmative, and that 10 members voted in the negative, consequently the resolution was adopted.

On motion of Mr. Moise, it was resolved

that the Committee on Public Education be instructed to enquire into the expediency of making the funds raised for school purposes a common State fund, to remain in the treasury, and establish a uniform rate of compensation to be paid to teachers, and report thereon by bill or otherwise.

On motion the same was adopted.

Mr. Moise, on behalf of the Judiciary Committee, reported favorably on an act concerning vagrants: An act more effectually to suppress trade and barter with slaves. The same member, on behalf of the same committee, to whom were referred the bill, entitled An act to prevent the selling and giving of spiritous liquors to slaves. Reported all unfavorably.

On motion the house resolved itself into committee of the whole, for the consideration of the following entitled bills: An act relative to the Lunatic Asylum. An act to provide for the building of two hundred additional cells in the penitentiary: An act to provide for the settlement with Wm. Pratt, of the firm of McLattou, Pratt & Co, late lessees of the penitentiary.

An act for the relief of the New-Orleans Mechanics' Society. After some time the committee rose and reported that they had adopted all the above named bills.

The House then took up the above bills on their second and third readings and passed them with their titles. The clerk was directed to ask the concurrence of the Senate thereto.

The House then adjourned until 10 o'clock to-morrow morning.

The Doctor and his Horse.

Stodious persons are sometimes surprisingly ignorant as to not on ordinary occasions. A Scottish paper says that Dr. Chalmers came home one evening on horseback, and as neither the man who had the charge of his horse nor the key of the stable could be found, he was for some time, not a little puzzled where to find a temporary residence for the animal. At last he fixed on the garden as the fittest place he could think of for the purpose; and having led the horse thither, he placed it on the garden walk. When his sister, who had also been from home, returned she was told that the key of the stable could not be found, she inquired what had become of the horse.

"I took it to the garden," said the doctor.

"To the garden?" she exclaimed, "then all our flowers and vegetable beds will be destroyed."

"Don't be afraid of that," said the doctor, "for I took particular care to place the horse on the garden walk."

"And did you really imagine," rejoined the sister, "that he would remain there?"

"I have no doubt of it," said the doctor, "for so stodious an animal as the horse could not fail to be aware of the propriety of refraining from injuring the products of the garden."

To decide the controversy by an appeal to facts, they went to the garden, and found, from the ruthless devastation which the trampling and the rolling of the animal had spread over every part of it, that the natural philosophy of the horse was a subject with which the lady was far more accurately acquainted than her learned brother.

"I never could have imagined," said the doctor, "that horses were such senseless animals."

Every Day Absurdities.

To make yourself generally disagreeable, and wonder that nobody will visit you unless they gain some palpable advantage by it.

To keep your clerks on miserable salaries, and wonder at their robbing you.

To make your servants tell lies for you, and afterwards be angry because they tell lies for themselves.

To tell your own secrets, and believe other people will keep them.

To keep a dog or a cat on a short allowance, and complain of its being a thief.

To degrade human nature with the hope of improving it.

To arrive at the age of fifty, and be surprised at any vice, folly or absurdity, your fellow creatures may be guilty of.

WALKING SIXTY CONSECUTIVE HOURS. The extraordinary and we believe, unparalleled feat of walking sixty hours without sleep or rest, has been accomplished successfully by Capt. TOMPKINS, who finished the last hour at 8 o'clock, p. m., on Tuesday last. Capt. T. began to walk on Saturday morning last at 8 o'clock, and continued patiently and perseveringly in the performance of this prodigious feat until it was completed. Towards the close of his undertaking, fatigue and exhaustion began to tell fearfully upon him. He staggered to and fro like a drunken man, and could hardly lift one leg after another. Still with indomitable perseverance, he continued to walk, until the firing of the eight o'clock gun on Jackson Square, announced the termination of his gigantic efforts, when the tension of his over-wrought frame gave way at once, and he fell utterly prostrated into the arms of his attendants. We understand that Capt. T. is suffering from fever—no unexpected result of so terrible a violation of the laws of nature.—Be.

GOVERNER AT LAST.—Mrs. Jenima Jipson never could go to bed without looking under each to see if somebody was not stowed away there. But her search had always been bootless. At last, however, one night she spied (or thought she did, which is all the same,) the long looked-for boot and legs.

"Oh! Mr. Jipson!" she screamed out; "there's a man under the bed!"

"Is there," "oody drewed her husband, "well, my dear, I am glad you have found one at last. You have been looking for him these twenty years."

A Boston paper says, that on the night of a recent fire in that city, two strangers, who lodged in the same room, jumped out of bed at the alarm of fire, and both grappled the same pair of pantaloons, and each wrested a leg into their own, and then claimed together, like galleys slaves, they got free the street and cried "Fire!" lustily.

Reflector.—A person knows first as a visionary; then as a "Quack;" then as a "Denier."

Retrenchment.
The special committee to whom was referred the resolutions of Mr. McCutchen, recommended a reduction of the salaries of the following officers:

Governor, from \$6,000 to \$4,000, with a contingent fund of \$—

Secretary of State, from \$2,000 to \$1,500.

Attorney General, from \$3,000 to \$1,500.

Treasurer, from \$4,000 to \$2,000; to have one clerk at a salary of \$1,000.

Auditor, from \$4,000 to \$2,500; to have one 1st clerk at \$1,200, second clerk at \$800.

Chief Justice, salary be reduced from \$6,000 to \$4,000 as soon as can be constitutionally done.

Associate Judges, Supreme Court, \$5,000 to \$3,500, and that the present number of Supreme Judges be reduced to three.

District Judges. Their salaries remain at \$2,500, but the number of Districts be reduced from seventeen, their present number, to twelve, and the District Attorneys be reduced to twelve. A saving can be thus effected, of \$15,000 annually, and without detriment to the public service as the committee believe.

District Attorneys salaries to remain at \$600, except the First District Court of New Orleans, the number being reduced to twelve.

Chief Clerks of the Senate and House of Representatives, be reduced from \$2,000 to twelve dollars per day, during the Session and for ten days after.

Minute Clerks of the Senate and House of Representatives, fixed in future at ten dollars per day during the Session.

Other Clerks of the same, to receive the same pay as is allowed by law, to members of the Legislature per diem.

Sergeants at Arms of the Senate and House of Representatives, be fixed at the rate of \$600 per annum, and to take charge of the State House and the public property therein during the recess of the Legislature, and that, with the State House Keeper, they be required to perform the further duty of taking care of the public arms, under the direction and supervision of the Adjutant and Inspector General of the State.

The Adjutant and Inspector General's Office, require in the opinion of the committee, only nominal duties or nearly so, they therefore recommend it to be abolished and reconstructed so as to require that officer to perform the duty of Secretary to the Governor, and for both the duties of travelling over the State for the purpose of reviews superseded, to receive a salary of only one thousand dollars. Therefore this would reduce the expenses of these two offices \$2,150 50, from that of last year. The care of the arsenal property belongs to the Adjutant and Inspector General's Office, and is now maintained in the city of New Orleans at an expense of \$2,370. The committee recommend it to be removed to Baton Rouge, and such rooms in the basement of the State House, as may be selected by the Governor, be set apart, for the reception of the public arms, leaving such now in the hands of volunteer's to remain as now. The committee recommend that the offices of State Engineer and Assistant Engineer, the salaries of which now amount to \$5,500 be both abolished, and in lieu thereof, a division of the State into four equal internal improvement districts. That the office of the board of currency, consisting of the Treasurer and Secretary of State, whose salaries are now \$1,800, each, be abolished. The Parish Sheriffs, to receive a salary of \$300 per annum, each, abolished. A saving of four hundred and twenty dollars will be effected, by which will go to the Public School fund and increase the means of Public Schools. The office of State Superintendent of Public Education be abolished, as it now exists by law, and reconstructed, merging into it the duties of State Librarian and that of the Superintendent of the bureau of statistics, and that a salary of one thousand dollars be assigned for the performance of these duties as stated before. These duties are not incompatible and can be easily performed by one officer, and the compensation proposed equals that of a majority of the states for similar services, and effects a saving of \$3,700, as compared with last year. The committee recommend the merging of the office of the clerk of the district courts of the State, and that of recorder of deeds and mortgages, into one office. The committee also recommend the merging of the office of State Tax Assessor, State Tax Collector and Parish Tax Collector into one office—that of the Sheriff of the different Parishes. There was paid to the different Assessors last year the sum of \$15,905 25.

The committee find from an examination of the expenditures of the contingent funds of the various officers, much to be improved, and in the allowance they have assigned to each, have taken the amount, from calculations based upon the details of their reports and such as the public service requires and no more. It is due to the Governor of the State to say that the committee found no objections to his contingent expenses. The sum of \$600, allowed by law for copying the Laws of the State, and paid out of the contingent fund by the Governor, the committee can find no use or benefit derived from it, but what is equally, and as well secured to the State, from the printed copies, and they therefore recommend its being abolished.

On the subject of offering rewards by the Governor on the part of the State for the apprehension of criminals, the committee beg to make a single remark. Information of an undoubted character, was before the Committee, exhibiting the fact, that several instances has occurred, where men had been killed, the Sheriff declared or refused to arrest the murderer, until after a reward had been offered by the Governor, and the only motive for so doing was to obtain the reward. The information was of that character as left no doubt upon the minds of the Committee, that had the Sheriff referred to, done their duty, the criminal in one or two instances could have been, and ought to have been, arrested on the spot. The Committee recommend some more stringent enactments of Law, by which officers, such may be duly punished for such conduct, and the State saved from the official plunder of her treasury by such sheriffs.

The expenditure of \$35,000 the past year, by the State for criminal prosecutions is, without a parallel in the history of the criminal jurisprudence of any State of this confederacy, and excites astonishment in the minds of every member of the Legislature. In the outset of their examination of this subject, the Committee presumed that Louisiana allowed by law no more than was just and proper; and that it was in proportion, for like services, in other States. But they were mistaken. Louisiana has a population of 300,000 in less than half the number of New York, with a population of 3,200,000 inhabitants, would be between three and four hundred thousand dollars at the same rate. But on turning to the laws of New York for the year 1850, Chap. 355, page 785, in the "act making appropriations for the support of government for the fiscal year," they find the sum of *thirty thousand dollars*, as the cost to that great State for such service. The Committee give the word of the Statute as follows: "For costs of suits, fees of sheriffs and witnesses in suits prosecuted or defended by the Attorney General or District Attorneys for the people of this State and for expenditures and disbursements by the Attorney General, *two thousand dollars.*" Comment on such facts would be wholly out of place. The system must be changed, if not abolished, and something better substituted.

Thorpe's full length portrait of General Taylor.

A resolution to purchase this beautiful portrait of Gen. Taylor before the committee of the whole House, Mr. Rivers in a truly eloquent, and feeling speech urged an appropriation for the purchase. Fifteen hundred dollars was the value placed upon it by Mr. Rivers, who was willing though, to leave the amount blank to be filled up by the wisdom of the House.

In the course of his remarks, Mr. Rivers said that in addition to the many talents, which this portrait should be the property of Louisiana, was the fact that the artist who painted it was a native of the country, and one whose pen has done much to elevate General Taylor to the Presidency. The fact that an allusion had been made that in the duties of travelling over the State for the purpose of reviews superseded, to receive a salary of only one thousand dollars. Therefore this would reduce the expenses of these two offices \$2,150 50, from that of last year. The care of the arsenal property belongs to the Adjutant and Inspector General's Office, and is now maintained in the city of New Orleans at an expense of \$2,370. The committee recommend it to be removed to Baton Rouge, and such rooms in the basement of the State House, as may be selected by the Governor, be set apart, for the reception of the public arms, leaving such now in the hands of volunteer's to remain as now. The committee recommend that the offices of State Engineer and Assistant Engineer, the salaries of which now amount to \$5,500 be both abolished, and in lieu thereof, a division of the State into four equal internal improvement districts. That the office of the board of currency, consisting of the Treasurer and Secretary of State, whose salaries are now \$1,800, each, be abolished. The Parish Sheriffs, to receive a salary of \$300 per annum, each, abolished. A saving of four hundred and twenty dollars will be effected, by which will go to the Public School fund and increase the means of Public Schools. The office of State Superintendent of Public Education be abolished, as it now exists by law, and reconstructed, merging into it the duties of State Librarian and that of the Superintendent of the bureau of statistics, and that a salary of one thousand dollars be assigned for the performance of these duties as stated before. These duties are not incompatible and can be easily performed by one officer, and the compensation proposed equals that of a majority of the states for similar services, and effects a saving of \$3,700, as compared with last year. The committee recommend the merging of the office of the clerk of the district courts of the State, and that of recorder of deeds and mortgages, into one office. The committee also recommend the merging of the office of State Tax Assessor, State Tax Collector and Parish Tax Collector into one office—that of the Sheriff of the different Parishes. There was paid to the different Assessors last year the sum of \$15,905 25.

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