

THE LEGISLATURE—29TH SESSION.

Both Branches Show a Disposition to Dispose of Their Bills.

Governor Markham Sends in a Batch of Appointments—Respect to the Dead Monarch.

SENATE.

SACRAMENTO, January 21, 1891. The Senate met at 10 o'clock a. m., President pro tem, Fraser in the chair. Roll called and quorum present. Journal of Tuesday read and approved.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

Mr. Banks, from the Committee on Public Buildings Other than Prisons, reported back the resolution relative to the removal or consolidation of unnecessary commissions and boards of public officers, with the recommendation that it be referred to the Finance Committee. So ordered.

Mr. Simpson, from the Committee on Education and Public Morals, reported back S. B. 45, including hockey-pokey in the list of prohibited games, and recommending its passage.

Also, S. B. 154, providing for free textbooks for public school pupils, recommending its passage.

Also, S. B. 113, authorizing the establishment of consolidation of unnecessary commissions and boards of public officers, with the recommendation that it be referred to the Finance Committee. So ordered.

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Committee on Engraving, reported S. B. 10, 11, 13, 14, 20, 32, and the substitute for S. B. 18 and 25, as correctly engrossed.

A priority report was submitted by Messrs. Ostrom and Dray against the passage of the bill repealing the law declaring Klamath River a navigable stream, on the ground that a portion of that river is navigable.

PASSAGE OF BILLS. The following bills were read the third time: S. B. 10, relative to the claims by third persons of property levied upon under writs of execution and attachment. Passed.

S. B. 11, relating to the appointment of receivers and the care and disposition of the property of insolvent debtors during the pendency of insolvency proceedings and before the election of an assignee. Lost—ayes 7, noes 27.

S. B. 13, relating to the crime of obtaining money or property by false pretenses. Passed—ayes 36, noes 0.

S. B. 14, relating to the fraudulent presentation of claims to public officers. Passed—ayes 33, noes 0.

Sub. for S. B. 18 and 25, relating to the dismissal of actions and to appeals. Passed—ayes 31, noes 11.

Mr. Sewell gave notice of a motion to reconsider.

S. B. 29, in relation to the adoption of children. Laid over for correction.

S. B. 32, in relation to the office of Treasurer of the Deaf and Dumb and Blind Asylum. Passed—ayes 28, noes 6.

S. B. 34, relative to the collection of property taxes. Referred to a special committee (Crandall, Carpenter, DeLong, McGowan, Ragsdale, Seawell and Ostrom) for revision and report.

MORE BILLS INTRODUCED. By Mr. Harp—Amending the County Government Act, relating to the salaries of Deputy Superintendents of Schools in various counties. Passed.

By Mr. Ostrom—Amending the Political Code, relating to methods of nomination and electing candidates for public offices.

By Mr. Simpson—Providing for certain improvements at the Stockton Insane Asylum.

Also, making an appropriation to meet the deficiency in the appropriation for the forty-first and forty-second fiscal years.

By Mr. Campbell—Amending the Bank Commission Act.

By Mr. Campbell of Siskiyou—Relating to the government of irrigation districts.

By Mr. Dargie—Authorizing the Attorney-General to dismiss certain actions pending in the Superior Courts of Sacramento, on the payment of certain sums.

EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS. A message was received from the Governor announcing the following appointments: Obed Harvey, to be a Director of the Stockton Insane Asylum.

Also, O. Overton, to be a Trustee of the Home for Feeble-Minded Children.

Warren Olney, to be a Trustee of the Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb and Blind.

On motion of Mr. DeLong, the message was included in the special order for 2 o'clock a. m. on Thursday.

MEMORIAL TO CONGRESS. On motion of Mr. Campbell of Solano, S. J. R. No. 2, memorializing Congress relative to the erection of a factory at time, commencing with assembling high-power guns, was taken up, adopted, and transmitted to the Assembly.

STANDING COMMITTEES. Lieutenant-Governor Reddick took the chair, and announced the following additions to the membership of Standing Committees caused by the consolidation of certain ones:

On Education and Public Morals—Messrs. Shippee, Carpenter, Ragsdale and Harp.

On Public Buildings, other than Prisons—Messrs. Shippee, W. H. Williams, Dray and Ragsdale.

On Labor and Capital—Messrs. McGowan, DeLong, W. H. Williams and Britt.

On City and County Governments—Messrs. Maher and Welch.

On Roads and Highways—Mr. Shippee.

FIRST READING OF BILLS. On motion of Mr. Maher, the Senate took up first reading the bill that had been reported from committees, and several bills were read, when Mr. Goucher objected, on the ground that the provisions were not in the interest of progress. He moved that the Senate adjourn so that committees might do some necessary work. Lost.

On reading of bills was resumed, when Mr. Goucher moved that the first reading of bills that are not on file be dispensed with. Ayes 10, noes 6.

RESPECT TO THE DEAD MONARCH. Mr. Mahoney offered a resolution to the effect that when the Senate adjourn, it be out of respect to the memory of the late King Kalakaua, who was always the friend of America and American institutions.

Adopted. At 3:30 p. m. the Senate, on motion of Mr. Goucher, adjourned.

ASSEMBLY. House met at 11 o'clock a. m., Speaker Coombs in the chair. Roll called; quorum present. Journal of yesterday approved.

At the request of Mr. Love, the committee on Corporations was granted further time in which to report certain bills referred to them.

Mr. Goucher stated that the press representatives made complaint that the terms of the resolution adopted by the House, directing that a copy of every printed bill be laid on the desks, were not being complied with. The Speaker called the attention of the Sergeant-at-Arms and pages to their duty in the premises.

SPECIAL ORDER. S. B. 207, specifying the number and compensation of the officers and attaches of the Legislature, and Assembly, was read the third time.

Mr. Bruner moved that the bill be referred to a special committee of one, with instructions to amend by substituting for Section 8 a new section placing the compensation of the officers and attaches of the House at the following figures:

The Sergeant-at-Arms, clerk and book-keeper of Sergeant-at-Arms, Minute Journal, Enrolling and Engrossing Clerks and Secretaries, Secretary of Senate and assistants, Clerk of Assembly and assistants, each \$8 per day; Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms, each \$2 per day; committee clerks, \$5, except Clerk of Assembly and Chief Clerk of Finance Committee of Senate and Ways and Means and Appropriations Committee of Assembly, who shall each receive \$8; pages, \$3; Postmaster or Postmistress and assistants, \$4; to all other employees, not exceeding \$5, to be fixed by the resolution authorizing them, except stenographers, who shall receive the compensation allowed by law to reporters.

The Speaker appointed Mr. Bruner such committee, who reported the bill back so amended. The amendment was agreed to, a bill sent to the State Printer to be reprinted, and made a special order for to-morrow after the reading of the journal.

REPORTS. By Mr. Culver, from the Committee on Rules—Recommending adoption of resolution adding two more members to Committee on Municipal Corporations. Adopted.

By Mr. Alexander, from Committee on Irrigation—Recommending passage of A. J. R. 7, relating to irrigation.

General to issue arms to the Order of Sons of Veterans. Military Affairs.

By Mr. Gould—Relative to redemption of land sold to irrigation districts for non-payment of taxes. Irrigation.

By Mr. Ames (by request)—To pay claims incurred by Examining Commissioners of Assessors and Assessors. To pay claim of James A. Green, Sheriff of San Benito County, for expenses incurred in conveyance of prisoners. Ways and Means.

By Mr. Dibble—To authorize the establishment of county high schools and provide for their maintenance. Education. Sections 148 and others of the Political Code relative to public schools. Education.

By Mr. Dibble—Twenty-one bills, by request of the State and the book publisher, making appropriations to pay deficiencies. On motion of Mr. Dibble the reading of their titles was dispensed with and they were referred to the Ways and Means Committee.

By Mr. Dibble—To provide for the government of irrigation districts. Move to County, for expenses, Claims. Making appropriation to reimburse Japanese Government for money expended in execution of irrigation taxes. Ways and Means.

To equalize compensation of attorneys employed by State in cases involving constitutionality of Chinese Exclusion Act, Judiciary.

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123, amending Sections 55 and 75 of Civil Code, relative to marriage; 51, relative to District Attorneys and their assistants and clerks in counties of more than 125,000 population; 174, relative to a paid fire department. Adjourned.

FREE TEXT-BOOKS. A "Man Up a Tree" Discerns Some Trouble Ahead.

EDS. RECORD-UNION: I notice that there is a probability of favorable action on the part of the Committees of Education of the Assembly and Senate, upon the proposition to furnish free text-books, and it would seem to me that a tree that no better bill could be passed for the purpose of doing away with the State publishing its own text-books, and while this movement for free text-books may be introduced in all sincerity, it will be well for the friends of the present system to consider the consequences of the proposed change.

The State now publishes certain books and aims to supply others needed, at prices 75 per cent. lower than the same grade of books now furnished by the State. Its monowith became a book publisher, and in all comparisons, but of prices before the State and the book publisher, it should be insisted that those prevailing three or four years ago be taken, and not those at which the latter says it will now furnish them. At the present time the book ring claims that the former disparity in price no longer exists, but it may be assumed that the State, as a factor in competition, had an important bearing in bringing about a reduction in price, if such really has been accomplished, and that the latter removed from the field, would be a great advantage to the former high prices. Too much money has already been expended by the State, and it is not probable that the present system to be introduced, and the duty of our legislators is not to enact laws that will cripple the text-book industry, but if the State is to be a publisher, it should be insisted that those prevailing three or four years ago be taken, and not those at which the latter says it will now furnish them. At the present time the book ring claims that the former disparity in price no longer exists, but it may be assumed that the State, as a factor in competition, had an important bearing in bringing about a reduction in price, if such really has been accomplished, and that the latter removed from the field, would be a great advantage to the former high prices. 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