

LEGISLATURE—20TH SESSION.

The Assembly Passes the World's Fair Appropriation Bill.

Senator Wilson of Tehama Makes One of His Speeches—Back Tax Bill Defeated in the Senate.

SENATE.

SACRAMENTO, Tuesday, Feb. 10, 1891. The Senate met at 11 o'clock A. M. Lieutenant-Governor Reddick in the chair. Roll called, and quorum present. Prayer by Rev. A. T. Needham. Journal approved.

On motion of Mr. Goucher, A. B. 227 was read the first time and substituted on the file for S. B. 374, relating to irrigation. Several reports were made by standing committees.

WILSON'S ANTI-USURY BILL.

Mr. Wilson's bill "to regulate the interest of money," being the special order, was called up by its author. The bill had previously been refused passage, but that action was subsequently reconsidered. It is somewhat novel in its features, but in brief fixes the rate of interest at 6 per cent. per annum, and prohibits compounding of interest.

Mr. Wilson moved to amend by striking out the first two clauses of Section 4 of the bill. While he was preparing his amendment some Senator asked what was the question before the Senate. "Hold on a minute, Mr. President," cried the Tehama statesman. "I'm holding on," remarked President Reddick, encouragingly, and the Senate smiled.

Senatorial seats were vacant, which caused him to remark: "Mr. President, when I was in Texas a good many years ago a-fightin' Injuns—when I knew I was among Injuns and couldn't see any in front of me, then I knew I was in danger. But when the Injuns came into my camp and set around and smoked with me, I knew I was all right. Now, Mr. President, I know I'm among Injuns, but I look around and can't see many of them. They're out in the brush, ready to take a shot at me as I pass! Mr. President, I have finished!"

The amendment was adopted, and when the roll was being called on the bill and Mr. McGowan's name was reached, he arose and remarked that he wished the Senate would grant him temporary leave of absence. [Laughter.]

The bill was, by a vote of 18 to 15, ordered engrossed.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

By Mr. Langford—To amend the Political Code, relating to the duty of Sheriffs. Also, to pay the claim of Joseph T. Gorman for services in the Constitutional Convention.

By Mr. Denison—To amend Section 1920 of the Code of Civil Procedure, relative to entries in official books and records.

By Mr. Heacock—Authorizing the prosecution of suits against the State or counties.

By Mr. Berry, amending Section 2955 of the Civil Code, relating to banking.

By Mr. Campbell of Siskiyou—Relating to working, rights of way, drainage of mines, etc.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The first business of the afternoon session was the introduction of bills, as follows:

By Mr. Streeter—Appropriating money for additional buildings for the Southern California State Hospital for Insane.

By Mr. Ragsdale—To pay the Journal Clerk of the Assembly of the twenty-sixth session for completing the journal of that body.

By Mr. Everett—To regulate the retail sale of wines and malt liquors, and to regulate the retail sale of cigars.

By Mr. DeLong (two)—Amending Sections 5, 323-3-4-5 of the Political Code.

By Mr. Carpenter—To pension school teachers.

By Mr. Crandall—Relating to property assessments. Also, making it a felony for owners of irrigating canals to refuse water for irrigation (two bills).

By Mr. Everett—Amending the Civil Code relating to cemetery organizations.

COMMITTEE REPORTS.

Mr. Sprague, from the Judiciary Committee, reported back S. B. 429, defining the meaning of certain words in statutes; passage recommended.

Also, S. B. 516, enabling the Colwellville and Yosemite Turpicks Company to sue the State for losses incurred by the construction of a road by the Yosemite Turpicks Company; passage recommended.

Also, S. B. 483, repealing certain portions of the Act incorporating the City of Sacramento; passage recommended.

Also, S. B. 488, defining the word "revenue," relating to the bonded indebtedness of Sacramento City; passage recommended as amended.

Mr. Campbell of Siskiyou, from the Committee on Irrigation, reported back S. B. 374, relating to the organization of irrigation districts; passage recommended.

Mr. DeLong, from the Committee on Finance, reported back A. B. 408 as a substitute for S. B. 309, and to replace the latter on the Senate file.

A debate ensued between Messrs. Crandall and Goucher on the point as to the necessity of substituted bills from the Assembly being re-read in the Senate, when of the same character.

Mr. Goucher held that, in order to be constitutional, Assembly bills should be read the full number of times in the Senate, when replacing Senate bills on the file.

Mr. Crandall held that it was not necessary, and had not been the custom.

The Senate decided to have the bill read.

SPECIAL ORDER.

S. B. 6, relating to reassessments of property and the equalization of the same in cases where a former assessment is invalid or void, and in relation to the collection of taxes on said reassessment (on final passage).

Mr. Berry, the author of the bill, spoke in its support. He said that it was a new measure, and did not require much explanation. He did not deny that it was aimed directly at railroad companies from which taxes had not been collected.

Remarks in its support were also made by Messrs. Ostrom, Wilson, Crandall and Langford.

Mr. Carpenter spoke against the bill. He said it was an attempt to throw dirt upon the judiciary by trying to reusulate an old matter that had been settled in the courts, and to cover the State with a spume as bad as the locust plague of Egypt. If the bill were a meritorious one, why did it leave out the delinquent taxes of 1878-80-81 on property that did not belong to railroad companies, which would place upward of \$4,000,000 in the State Treasury? The author of the bill had stated that it was intended to reach the railroad companies alone, and any type in legislation knows that the Constitution expressly prohibits anything of that kind.

As a matter of fact, every kind of tax unpaid in this State in the last eight years are included in this bill. It goes back to levy taxes on property that has passed into innocent hands which that time and the present owners to pay whatever sums may be charged upon them by suits commenced for their collection. The Constitution says taxes shall be assessed and collected in one way, and this bill says it shall be done in another. For his part, he stood by the Constitution, and placed his foot upon the bill.

Mr. Carpenter then explained the utter revolution the bill would entail among property titles in the southern part of the State. It was the railroads that changed California from a sheep pasture to one of the most beautiful and prosperous in the Union. When corporations come to the Legislature asking for improper legislation in their interests he will oppose them, but he would also support corporations in their legal rights. The title of the bill should be changed to read: "A bill to promote informers and to assist Assessors in the art of bribery."

Some further committee reports were made, and at 5 o'clock the Senate adjourned.

ASSEMBLY.

House met at 10 A. M. Speaker Combs in the chair. Roll called; quorum present. Prayer by the Chaplain. Journal corrected and approved.

In discussing the journal the Speaker suggested the propriety of holding evening sessions for the consideration of routine and preliminary work.

Mr. Bruner presented a petition from the citizens of Merced requesting the passage of A. B. 538, relating to the appointment of a married woman as administratrix of estate of deceased persons.

Mr. Bledsoe presented seven petitions from citizens of his county requesting passage of bills regarding the educational qualifications of voters.

Mr. Sturtevant presented a petition from citizens of Mendocino asking for legislation to regulate fish laws.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES.

The Committee on Ways and Means reported back A. B. 136, regarding the sending of experts to Australia and New Zealand to collect and import parasites and predaceous insects, with amendments, and recommended to pass as amended. Also reported favorably on a bill to create a State Board of Mediation and Arbitration. Also recommended passage as amended of A. B. 161, to create a State Irrigation Association.

A. B. 517 was recommended by the same committee to passage. It authorizes the Controller and Treasurer to transfer to the general fund all moneys standing to the credit of coupons upon the Central Pacific Railroad bonds. The authors of the bill for the relief of General Vallejo and of the bill for the purchase of a house for the prison at San Quentin, were recommended to withdraw the same.

The Committee on State Charitable and Reformatory Institutions reported favorably upon bills to provide buildings and improvements for the Deaf, Blind and Blind Asylum, also for the Home for Feeble-Minded Children in Santa Clara County, also for the creation of a State Board of Pardon Commissioners.

The Committee on Education reported Senator Campbell's bill, for providing free use of text-books to the children of the State, for passage with an amendment that the provisions of the bill should extend only to the text-books of the State series. Mr. Hall's bill providing for the establishment of high schools was also reported favorably.

Reports were also received from Committees on Judiciary, Irrigation, Municipal Corporations, Public Morals, and Claims.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS.

The following bills were introduced and referred to committees.

By Mr. Bruner—Authorizing persons having claims against the State or against counties to prosecute the same.

By Mr. Mordecai—Amending Section 2955 of the Civil Code regarding mortgages upon personal property.

By Mr. Clark—Regulating the sale at retail of spirituous and malt or fermented liquors or wine, sold to provide for the assistance of licensees.

By Mr. Wentworth (two bills)—To extend the jurisdiction of the Board of State Harbor Commissioners over certain streets in San Francisco.

By Mr. Hawley—To pay the claim of J. K. Fisher for services rendered at the State Hospital for the Insane in Southern California.

By Mr. Sturtevant—To amend several Sections of the Political Code relating to pilots and pilot regulations.

By Mr. Rice—Amending Section 211 of the Political Code, regarding a system of county and township government and creating two new classes of counties.

SPECIAL FILE.

Mr. Dibble offered a substitute for A. B. 1, known as the "apportionment bill," and asked that the substitute be printed and remain at the top of the file. It was ordered printed.

A. B. 410, providing an appropriation for deficiency produced by trials for violation of the law for the preservation of fish, upon its final passage was lost.

Bills providing for deficiencies in appropriations for the State, for salary of Commissioner of Bureau of Labor Statistics for the fourth fiscal year, for construction of granite steps for the State Capitol, were, on final passage, adopted.

The drainage deficiency bill was lost.

A. B. 632, to provide for appropriation for contingent expenses of the Assembly, came up for second reading. Chairman Dibble, of the Ways and Means Committee, explained that this was an appropriation of \$7,000 for salaries for employees of the Legislature, making only \$25,000 in all, as against \$80,000 at the last session, and asked to have the bill read the third time and go to its final passage at once, as the money was needed imperatively. The bill was adopted.

A. B. 42 was passed on file, and A. B. 280 read the first time.

A. B. 547, to abolish the grammar-school course and grammar-school course fund, was read a second time as amended in committee and passed to a third reading.

Pending the discussion of A. B. 401, on this file, the Assembly took a recess till 2 o'clock P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Mr. Arnes moved that A. B. 40, making an appropriation to pay the claim of the Journal Clerk of the Senate of the twenty-eighth session, be referred to select committee of three and made the special order for Wednesday. Carried.

SPECIAL ORDERS.

Under this head the appropriation for the World's Columbian Exposition was first on the file on its final passage, and the discussion consumed the remainder of the afternoon.

Mr. Brusie opened the debate in opposition to the bill, and was followed by Mr. Bruner in support of it.

Messrs. Kenno, Cunningham, Bledsoe, Clark and Fowler spoke against the appropriation, while able arguments in its favor were made by Messrs. Shanahan, Hall, Gould, Young, McCall, Murphy, Matthews, Matlock, Dibble and Mordecai.

During the debate a motion was made to postpone the final passage of the bill till after the passage of the general appropriation bill, but this was lost.

On the final passage of the bill the vote stood—ayes 46, noes 22, the roll-call being as follows:

Ayes—Alexander, Ames, Arnes, Barnett of San Francisco, Barnett of Sonoma, Bert, Bruner, Bryant, Carter, Coffey, Cram, Culver, Dibble, Dow, Dunn, Fowler, Galbraith, Glenn, Gordon, Gould, Hall, Harlow, Hayes, Hayes, Hocking, Hunsweil, Jackson, Jones, Lewis, Lowe, Lynch, Matlock, Matthews, McCall, Mordecai, Phillips, Rice, Robertson, Shanahan, Smith of Butte, Smith of Orange, Steitz, Tennis, Wentworth, Windrow, Young—46.

Noes—Barnard, Baughman, Bledsoe, Brown, Brusie, Cargill, Clark, Cunningham, Doty, Durner, Eakle, Garver, Hoey, Kellogg, Lacey, Marion, Murphy, Reuter, Stahler, Sturtevant, Tully, Mr. Speaker—22.

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Table listing various goods and their prices, including Men's Rubber Leggings, Boys' Long Rubber Coats, Men's Rubber Coats, etc.

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Table listing various rubber shoes and their prices, including Misses' Buckle Arctic Overshoes, Boys' Buckle Arctic Overshoes, etc.

Remember what we said to you yesterday in this column—A Final Closing Sale of WINTER MILLINERY, commencing TO-MORROW (Thursday) MORNING. Everything to be sold at some price. Our best goods, perfect styles. Every piece of Trimmed Millinery at a terrible sacrifice. There's many a Trimmed Hat for Lady or Miss in this offering that can be worn the year round.

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