branches, and to report the results of the same to the next General Assembly; which was read, and ordered to a second reading.

Resolutions.—Mr. Stevenson offered a preamble and resolution, setting forth that the Board of Internal Improvements had been guilty of great extravagance in carrying on the public works, and instructing the committee on Canals and Internal Improvements to report a bill reducing the number and salaries of engineers, specifying the duties of such officers as may be necessarily retained, &c.

Mr. Elliott moved that the preamble be stricken out, as projecting the conduct of the class of public officers named, without giving them an advantage of a trial or defence. The motion did not prevail: ayes 22, noes 25.

Mr. Chamberlain moved to instruct the committee, to report a bill providing for the election of all officers and agents employed in the State in connection with the public works, by joint ballot of both branches of the General Assembly; which, on motion, was modified, by excepting "auditors and attorneys."

Mr. Mount thought it was not good policy to make all the petty officers which may be necessarily employed on the public works, elective by joint ballot.

Mr. Stevenson coincided with the gentleman from Franklin.

Mr. Chamberlain said he had no objection to the suggestion of the gentleman from Franklin; and addressed the Senate at length on the abuses which prevailed in the mode of carrying on the public works of the State, and particularly in the vicinity of Madison.

Mr. Eggleston moved to amend the amendment, by inserting "joint resolution" in the place of "joint ballot."

Mr. Bright rose to correct some misconceptions of the Senator from Elkhart, as to the corruption which he supposed prevails at the "Deep Diggings." He did not pretend to deny but that there were abuses existing there, but he maintained they were not greater than prevailed in the manner of carrying on other public works of the State. He was in favor of the proposition of the Senator from Elkhart, believing, as he did, that it might lead to a great saving of expense, and take away a great source of corruption from the officers of the State.

Mr. Dobson exposed the proposition of the gentleman from Switzerland, and also commented upon the extravagance and corruption which prevailed at the "deep diggings."

Mr. Bright replied to Mr. Dobson; and was followed by Mr. Nave, who declared his opposition to all the propositions for electing officers. He did not wish to see any elected—neither fund commissioners, canal commissioners, nor engineers, believing that they should all be dispensed with.

Mr. West was in favor of the resolution of the Senator from Elkhart, and opposed to that of the Senator from Switzerland. He alluded to the developments made in the report of the Chief Engineer which had been just read, and argued, from thence, the necessity of adopting measures for the speedy reform of a system so prolific of abuse. He gave instances, within his own personal knowledge, of the allowance of excessive damages, which he said could only have proceeded from personal favoritism.

Mr. Eggleston again rose to advocate his amendment, on the score of economy. He was also in favor of electing by *viva voce*, considering the *ballot*, like Pandora's box, oftentimes the prolific source of mischief.

Mr. Chamberlain rejoined. He could not agree with the Senator last up, as to the economical effects of his proposed mode of election by joint resolution. On the contrary, he thought it might lead to lengthened discussion and a most unnecessary consumption of time. Mr. Eggleston rejoined. The question on adopting the amendment to the amendment, was then put, and adopted—ayes 26, noes 24.

Mr. Watts moved to amend the amendment, by inserting, "and that the salaries of said officers shall not exceed the proceeds of the tolls: which was adopted by consent.

The resolution, as amended, was then adopted.

An engrossed bill, from the House, defining the duties of county treasurer; was then taken up.

Mr. Read moved to amend, by inserting a provision to "abolish the State Board of Equalization;" which gave rise to a lengthened discussion; but the amendment was finally laid on the table.

The bill, after undergoing a slight amendment on the suggestion of Mr. Parker, was read a third time and passed.

The Senate then adjourned.

Afternoon.—Mr. Collins offered a resolution directing the committee on federal relations to enquire whether the State of Indiana has received the 500,000 acres of land for purposes of internal improvement, secured to her by the 8th section of the act of Congress appropriating the proceeds of the sales of the public lands, and granting pre-emption rights, approved Sept. 4, 1841; and, if not, then to report to the Senate a bill directing the selection of said land, according to the provisions of said act of Congress.

Mr. Chamberlain moved to lay the resolution on the table; which did not prevail.

Mr. Harris thought there was no doubt but the Governor had already received the 500,000 acres of land provided for in the Distribution Bill, and he could, therefore, see no propriety in the proposed enquiry.

Mr. Collins said the lands, to which the Senator from Carroll had alluded, were granted in pursuance of a compact, and could not be supposed to interfere with the rights of the State under the act named. The enquiry, he thought, should not be opposed, as there was at least good reason to doubt the conclusions to which the gentleman had arrived. The resolution was referred.

Mr. Chamberlain introduced a preamble and resolution setting forth the embarrassed condition of the State, &c., and providing for the appointment of a select committee to take into consideration the propriety of raising a fund to buy up the bonds of the State at their present reduced prices, to pay the interest on the same, and to provide for the appointment of an agent for that purpose, &c., and to report by bill or otherwise.

Mr. Eggleston moved to amend, by striking out so much as relates to the surplus revenue, and inserting "also enquire into the expediency of creating stock companies, to whom the public works of the State, or some of them, may be sold for their cost in bonds; and further to provide that the several counties of the State be authorized to pay off the private debt in bonds, and in a just proportion, taking into consideration the benefit derived by them from the public works."

Mr. Chamberlain opposed this amendment, and argued, at length, the effect of his resolution, if adopted, in relieving the State from embarrassment. He said he did not expect again to occupy a seat on the floor of the Senate, and was consequently actuated by no paltry party motives. Having, however, had an agency (by voting for the internal improvement act of 1836,) in producing our present embarrassments, he felt constrained to make all the atonement in his power, by introducing a measure of deliverance, such as he believed his present proposition to be. He said this was no party measure; that all were equally interested in relieving the State and the people from embarrassment, and therefore invoked for his proposition the calm and deliberate consideration of the Senate.

Mr. Eggleston said that he believed the Senator from Elkhart and himself were nearer together than they had been for several years; and that he had, for some time, been revolving in his mind a measure of the kind alluded to. He, therefore, hoped a committee would be raised under the resolution. He did not think, however, it would be fair to place all the counties on a footing in dividing among them the debt of the State.

[It proposes to purchase State Bonds at present price; to pay interest that may have accrued, if necessary; repeals the act of 1837, distributing the surplus revenue, and sets apart the proceeds, as fast as collected, to purchase up bonds, &c.]

Mr. Cornett moved to amend by inserting, "That said committee be directed to inquire into the expediency of raising the aforesaid fund, by levying a tax on the people of the counties which have advocated the internal improvement system." Not adopted.

The committee consists of Messrs. Chamberlain, Eggleston and Kinzer.

Mr. Parker offered a resolution instructing the committee on the judiciary to enquire into the expediency of providing by law for the reconveyance of convicts from the penitentiary to the county where the convict may have been tried and convicted, where the sentence may have been reversed by the Supreme Court, &c.; which was adopted.

Mr. Aker offered a resolution instructing the judiciary committee to inquire into the expediency of so amending the 6th section of an act subjecting real and personal estate to execution, approved Feb. 4, 1841, as not to compel sheriffs and other officers to advertise the sale of real estate in a newspaper, unless the same can be published for one dollar, and to report, &c. Adopted.

Mr. Davis offered a resolution instructing the committee on Federal Relations to inquire into the expediency of extending the time of payment by debtors of the Sinking fund to some four or five years, and of reducing the interest thereon to 6 per cent, with leave to report by bill or otherwise; which was adopted.

Mr. Berry offered a resolution instructing the judiciary committee to inquire into the expediency of altering the law fixing the time of meeting of the Board doing county business in Monroe county; which was adopted.

Mr. Walpole introduced a bill to change the time of holding the Circuit Court of Madison county; which (the rules being suspended) was passed.

Mr. Wright introduced a bill to define the duties of county auditors; which was ordered to a second reading.

Mr. Collins introduced a bill authorizing the Treasurer of State to receive the proportion of public lands to which the State may be entitled under the operations of the distribution bill; which was ordered to a second reading.

Mr. Nave introduced a bill abolishing the office of Fund Commissioner and Board of Internal Improvements; which was ordered to a second reading.

Bills respecting the Probate Court in Knox county, the 21 judicial district, and regulating the jurisdiction of justices of the peace in Madison county, were passed.

A bill from the House authorizing the issue of $5 Treasury notes to take the place of the present issue of $50 Treasury notes, and bearing an interest of 4 per cent, was taken up.

Mr. Cornett moved to amend, by providing for the redemption of the Treasury notes, at the treasury, by paying for them only their "market value."

Mr. Baird moved to refer the bill and amendment to the committee on finance. It was accordingly referred.

A bill from the House providing that no property shall be sold for less than two-thirds of its fair market value, being taken up; and, having been discussed some time, a motion to re-commit it to the judiciary committee was lost—ayes 21, noes 25.

Mr. Bright moved to lay the bill on the table, and that 100 copies be printed. Carried.

The Senate then adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Petitions were presented by Messrs. Robinson, of C., Grimes, Harding, Thompson of F., Wines of A., Wartmer, Ritchey, and Shively; which were referred to appropriate committees.

A message from the Senate announced the passage of the following bills, &c.

A joint resolution on the subject of a resumption of specie payments and for other purposes; twice read and referred to the committee on the State Bank; also, an act to define more particularly the duties of the commissioner of the 3 per cent. fund in Daviess county;

An act to legalize the proceeding of Hamilton Lapham as commissioner to locate and survey a State road from Lebanon in Boone county to Thorntown; and

An act for the relief of the heirs of Cornelius A. Dumares deceased; which were read and passed to a second reading; also

A joint resolution for the benefit of the citizens of the reserved townships in Gibson county; which was twice read and ordered to be engrossed.

Resolutions.—By Mr. Millikin, that the judiciary committee, to whom was referred a bill of this House, on the subject of reducing fees and salaries be instructed to enquire into the expediency of reporting a bill, as far as it regards pay of members of the General Assembly, allowing them three dollars per day for the first thirty days of the session, and two dollars per day for the next thirty days, and one dollar per day for the balance of the session; laid upon the table.

By Mr. Davis of F., relative to publishing the laws in the German language—not adopted.

By Mr. O'Neall, that the judiciary committee inquire into the expediency of reporting a bill, to amend the existing law regulating grand and petit jurors, so far as the counties of Greene, Ripley, Posey, Adams, Jay, Delaware, Hamilton, Orange, Lagrange, and Noble are concerned, so that hereafter, it shall be lawful to summon only twelve petit jurors for the first week of the term and none for the second week—adopted.

By Mr. Norvell, that the committee on military affairs be instructed to report a bill, providing for the furnishing an independent company of militia, at Springville, Lawrence county, Indiana, with arms, bayonets and cartouch boxes, as other companies of the same character are furnished—said company known by the name of Springville Invincibles.

By Mr. O'Neall, that the committee on the judiciary be instructed to enquire into the expediency of repealing so much of an act entitled an act to regulate the salaries of Auditor, Secretary and Treasurer of State, approved February 4th, 1841, as allows said officers any clerk hire; and also, into the expediency of reducing the salaries of said officers, and that they report by bill or otherwise.

My Mr. Robinson of C., that the committee on the judiciary be instructed to enquire into the necessity of providing by law for legalizing the proceedings of the several probate courts in this State from its first existence as such to the present time.

Mr. Clements offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That the committee on canals and internal improvements are hereby instructed to enquire into the expediency of reporting to this House, a bill providing for the following objects, viz:

1. To complete the unfinished portion of the Madison and Indianapolis Rail Road to Edinburg.

2. To complete the unfinished portion of the New Albany and Vincennes road from Paoli to Mount Pleasant.

3. To complete the unfinished portion of the White water canal from Lawrenceburgh to Laurel Feeder-Dam;

And, that said committee be further instructed to provide in said bill, that when the fund commissioner may not have funds sufficient to meet the drafts for work, that may be done on either of the above lines, he may be authorised to draw on the treasurer of State, who shall be authorized, in such event, to issue treasury notes of the denomination of five dollars; and they are hereby further instructed to provide that in the event of the treasurer issuing such treasury notes, that the dividend arising from the proceeds of the public lands shall be set apart for their redemption.

Mr. M'Allister moved to add the Northern end of the Central canal; when Mr. Wines proposed to further amend, by adding the Michigan canal.

On these motions a somewhat animated discussion took place, in which it was urged by those favoring the original proposition, that the three works proposed were those on which the largest amount of money had been expended, and would be most beneficial to the State; that the contemplated expenditure would not exceed four hundred thousand dollars in amount, and would prevent a large amount of materials now on hand from going into dilapidation and decay. Messrs. Ritchey, Brown of M., Sharp, Clements, Wines of A., O'Neall and M'Allister participated in the discussion, when

On motion of Mr. O'Neall, the resolution and amendments were laid upon the table.

By Mr. Bearss, that the committee on canals and internal improvements enquire into the expediency of releasing to the actual settlers on all lands selected by the State, who would be entitled to a pre-emption right, under the late law of Congress, granting the pre-emption rights to the settlers, and that they report, &c.

By Mr. Clark, that the committee of ways and means be instructed to enquire into the expediency of repealing the law of last winter, levying a tax upon dogs.

By Mr. O'Neall, that the committee on the State prison enquire into the expediency of repealing the 17th section of the law of last session relative to the State prison.

By Mr. Thompson of F., that the treasurer of State be requested to report to this House, at as early a day as practicable, the amount of perquisites arising from the college fund and other funds, if any, and now these perquisites have been applied, and why they are not found in the annual report of December 1st, 1841.

Bills presented.—By Mr. Chapman of H., to locate a State road therein named; read and passed to a second reading.

By Mr. Mitchell, relative to the distribution of public arms; read twice and referred to the committee on military affairs.

A message from the Senate announced the passage of a bill of the House, extending the time of payment of the State and county revenue, with an amendment; which was concurred in by the House.

Bills were presented by Mr. Cogswell, to provide for the election of a justice of the peace in the town of Shelbville in Hamilton county.

By Mr. Hoobler, requiring members of the General Assembly to account to the auditor of State; which were read and passed to a second reading.

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

The bill repealing a law of last session, on the subject of licensing taverns and groceries, so far as the county of Marion is concerned, was read a third time. [This bill provides for the repeal of the law giving the power to a majority of householders in any incorporated town, township or county, to remonstrate against and prevent the licensing of groceries to retail ardent spirits in a less quantity than a quart.] When

Mr. Stratton moved to recommit the bill to the committee of ways and means, with instructions to strike out so much thereof as applies to the city of Indianapolis; which motion was decided in the negative, ayes 32, noes 37.

The question recurring on the passage of the bill, Mr. Marshall contended, he was in favor of the majority governing. It appeared that a majority of the householders of Indianapolis had remonstrated against the establishment of groceries, and this was the reason why there are now no groceries in existence. He showed how twenty citizens above, of this bill passed, where the county was against the town, could compel the balance to have groceries against their consent. He was for the republican principle that a majority should govern.

Mr. Chapman of L., said, in the absence of any remonstrance against the respectable petition that had been presented, he hoped the prayer of the petitioners would be granted.

The discussion was further continued by Messrs. Cooper, Brown of M., Marshall, Reed, Henley, Davis of F., Cooper, Clark, Hackleman and Grover, when

Mr. Poulson moved the previous question.

The bill was then passed by a vote of ayes 52, noes 36.

Bills &c. passed.—A bill from the Senate, extending the time of payment of purchasers of school lands, throughout the State, three years.

To vacate an alley in the town of Lebanon, Boone county;

Relating to the jurisdiction of justices of the peace, in actions by and against corporations;

Amending the act for the promotion of schools, &c. in Clark's Grant;

For the relief of Charles Purcell, late collector of Posey county;

To repeal an act relative to roads and highways in the counties of Owen and Greene;

To amend an act to incorporate the Orange Guards;

For the relief of Nancy Close.

To provide for distributing the acts of Congress deposited in the office of the Secretary of State;

Memorial and joint resolution on the subject of the National road;

To regulate the jurisdiction of justices of the peace in the county of Dubois;

Providing for the election of three school commissioners in Parke county;

To amend a joint resolution relative to standing committees.

To incorporate the Eel river Bridge company.

A joint resolution relative to a reduction of the price of public lands in the State of Indiana.

A bill for the relief of Patrick Eagan.

For the relief of the members of Fire Company No. 1, in Fort Wayne.

For the relief of Patrick Rush.

The bill to amend the act defining the duties of recorders was read a third time and recommitted to the committee on the judiciary, with instructions to strike out so much as relates to recorders requiring their fees in advance.

The bill to provide for the completion of the Wabash and Erie canal from the mouth of Tippecanoe to Terre-Haute, was read a third time; when

Mr. Runyan moved to recommit to the committee of canals, &c., with instructions in favor of certain settlers not provided for in the bill: which did not prevail, ayes 29, noes 63.

The bill was then passed, by a vote of ayes 58, noes 28.

SENATE.

Thursday, Dec. 23.

The President laid before the Senate a letter from the Governor, enclosing a communication from the Chaplain, respecting the situation and condition of the convicts in the Penitentiary at Jeffersonville; which was read, and 1000 copies ordered to be printed.

A large number of bills and joint resolutions from the House were read, and ordered to a second reading.

Petitions, &c.—By Mr. Davis: A memorial of citizens of Posey county, praying for the abolishment of the State Board of Equalization; which, on motion of Mr. Read, was laid upon the table.

By Mr. Mount: A petition from J. W. Hett and Monroe Secretary, citizens of Franklin county, praying for the passage of an act to compel the School Commissioner to refund certain moneys paid for land; which was referred to a select committee, consisting of Messrs. Mount, Parker and Elliott.

Mr. Neckel, from the Finance Committee, to whom had been referred sundry petitions of citizens of Vermilion and Randolph counties, reported, and asked leave to be discharged from the further consideration of the subject, the measures prayed for now being under consideration in the Senate. Granted.

Mr. Watts, from the same committee, to whom had been referred a bill providing for the issue of $5 in the place of $50 Treasury notes, asked leave to be discharged from the consideration of the same. Granted.

Mr. Watts, from the same committee, to whom had been referred a bill for the relief of Jonathan and David Mount, reported a bill in accordance with the prayers of the petitioners. Ordered to a third reading.

Mr. Stevenson, from the Finance Committee, to whom a resolution was referred, directing an inquiry into the expediency of making canal certificates and Treasury notes receivable for interest and principal of canal lands, &c., reported that it was inexpedient to legislate upon the subject.

Mr. Stevenson, from the same committee, to whom had been referred a resolution upon the subject of giving licenses, and the propriety of equalizing the same in proportion to the amount of business done, &c., asked leave to be discharged from the further consideration of the same. It was then referred to a select committee, consisting of Messrs. Baird, Gregory and Harris.

Mr. Watts, from the Finance Committee, to whom had been referred a resolution of the Senate, instructing them to enquire into the expediency of reporting a bill providing for the exemption of $200 worth of property from taxation in certain cases, reported that it was inexpedient to legislate upon the subject, and asked leave to be discharged. Granted.

Mr. Beard, from the Committee on Canals and Internal Improvements, to whom was referred resolutions, &c., on the subject of the Wabash and Erie canal, reported a bill to provide for completing the W. & E. canal from the mouth of Tippecanoe river to Terre Haute; which was read a second time, and laid upon the table.

Mr. West, from the standing committee on the town of Indianapolis, made a report, requesting the Agent of the town of Indianapolis to make a report of the state of the Library fund, derived from the sale of lots, &c; which was read, and ordered to a second reading.

Mr. Collins, from the Committee on the State Bank, made a report, and asked and obtained leave to have such printing as may be necessary done, without the further order of the Senate. Granted.

Mr. Chamberlain, from the Committee of Corporations, to whom had been referred the bill to amend the act incorporating the Richmond Trading and Manufacturing Company, reported it back with an amendment, making its charter repealable at the pleasure of the Legislature; which was adopted, and the bill read a third time and passed.

Mr. Read moved to suspend the rules, and take up the petition of citizens of Posey county, for the repeal of the Board of Equalization; which was referred to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. Berry introduced a preamble and resolution, setting forth the importance of a well-regulated militia system, and instructing the Committee on the Militia to take into consideration the best mode of reorganizing the same, and to report by bill or otherwise; which was adopted.

Mr. Carr introduced a resolution instructing the Committee on Canals and Internal Improvements to report a bill, making it obligatory on the person or persons who may be hereafter charged with the care and management of the public works, to report annually to the Legislature the names of all persons employed as Engineers, Superintendents, Agents, &c., on the same; which was adopted.

A bill to incorporate the 1st Presbyterian Church of Logansport;

A bill to amend an act to incorporate the town of Princeton;

A bill to incorporate the Greenville Band of Musicians; and

A bill to revive and amend an act to incorporate the Delphi, &c., turnpike road company, were, on their second reading, referred to the Committee on Corporations.

A bill regulating the jurisdiction of Justices of the peace in Knox and Vigo counties, was referred to a select committee, consisting of Messrs. Carman, Moffatt and Davis.

A bill to abolish imprisonment for debt, was committed to the Committee on the Judiciary.

A bill for the relief of Pliny Hudson, was ordered to a third reading.

A bill to amend an act regulating the practice in Chancery, was ordered to a third reading.

A bill to amend the School law;

A bill to amend an act relating to county Seminaries;

A bill extending the privileges of the State Library to Attorneys of the Supreme Court, Clergymen, Editors of newspapers, &c., and

A bill to provide for the distribution of the laws of Congress among the several counties of this State, were, (with an amendment to the latter bill providing for full, instead of half binding;) severally ordered to a third reading.

A bill for the relief of the purchasers of Seminary lands in Gibson and Monroe counties; (after some conversation between Messrs. West and Berry,) gave rise to a discussion between Messrs. Stevenson, West, Baird, Eggleston and Cornett, on a proposition of Mr. Stevenson to repeal a portion of the act of 1841.

Mr. Stevenson moved to instruct the committee to report a bill providing for the repeal of that portion of the law of 1841, which gives the students of the State University exclusive privileges, in exempting them from the performance of military duty, &c. He said he did not wish to give them any privilege that was not accorded by law, to other citizens.

Mr. West opposed the views of the Senator from Putnam. He thought the enactments alluded to were perfectly proper, and that it was neither just nor expedient to give the constables and police of Bloomington the power of interference in adjusting the differences or quelling the juvenile quarrels of the students. As to the performance of military duty, said Mr W., they do already perform such duty among themselves, and many of them will, no doubt, make soldiers—and good and patriotic soldiers, too, in due time.

Mr. Baird agreed with the Senator from Putnam, and commented upon the exemption from military duty and working upon the roads, as neither just nor proper.

Mr. Eggleston justified the law of last winter, and thought that as the people of Monroe county, who were most interested in the matter, had not complained of the exemptions commented upon in this debate, we should not interfere in the business. He could see no injury that could arise to the people of that county or of the State, from such exemptions under the circumstances of the case. On the contrary, he believed it was right and proper to exempt them from any duties calculated to interrupt their studies, or defeat that acquisition of knowledge, for which the institution was established and so liberally endowed by the General and State Governments.

Mr. Cornett coincided in the views last expressed, and, after he had taken his seat, on motion, the Senate adjourned.

Afternoon.—When the Senate adjourned, the bill for the relief of purchasers of Seminary lands in Monroe and Gibson counties, was under discussion. Mr. Watts moved to lay the instructions proposed by Mr. Stevenson on table, which was decided in the affirmative—ayes 26, noes 8.

The bill was then, on motion, referred to a select committee, consisting of Messrs. Berry, West, Watts, Cornett and Eggleston.

A bill to amend an act pointing out the mode of levying taxes; [exempts from taxation canal lands until the final payment of the purchase money:] was, on motion of Mr. Herriman, referred to committee on canals and internal improvements.

A bill for the relief of the collector of Carroll county, was, on motion of Mr. Harris, laid on the table.

A bill to declare a certain county road therein named a State road, was ordered to a third reading.

A bill to correct a misprint in Benj. Butts's name was ordered to a third reading.

A bill regulating interest on money. [Repeals so much of the Revised Code as authorizes a higher rate of interest than 10 per cent. under special contract.] Mr. Elliott opposed the bill as impolitic and inexpedient, and as not a proper subject for legislative interposition. He thought such matters should be left to be regulated by private contract. He therefore moved for its indefinite postponement.

Mr. Nave hoped the motion to postpone would not prevail. He was of the opinion that the laws authorizing an exorbitant rate of interest had done more injury to society—to the people of the State—than all other causes which could be enumerated.

Mr. Gregory said the regulation of interest should be left to the discretion of individuals. He believed attempts to regulate such matters, always did more harm than good to borrowers. The certain effect of legislation, in such cases, was to increase the evils which it attempted to cure, in holding out greater inducements to money-lenders to seek to devise means of evading the law. No legislature can regulate dealings and transactions between individuals as well as they can if left to themselves. It was presumption in a legislative body to dictate to individuals as to what they can afford to pay for money or any other article of merchandize, for money, after all, said Mr. G., is an article of merchandize.

Mr. Harris read from a very quaint report made to the House of Representatives, some years since, by a member from Putnam county (Mr. McNairy,) to show (to use Mr. McN's own language,) the "diabolical effects" of usury. The reading of the report created considerable merriment.

Mr. Mount looked upon the attempt to regulate the rate of interest by legislative enactment, as perfectly ridiculous—and as impracticable as it would be to appoint a legislative committee to attend in every neighborhood in the State, for the purpose of advising weak individuals in the daily transactions of life. He looked upon money as an article of merchandize, and said that, if left to itself, competition among individuals would tend to bring it forth from its hiding places, and regulate its value. He said every body knew that no considerable amount of money could now be borrowed in Indiana at six per cent.; and that, if reduced to that rate, no poor man could borrow it; for, in lending, the capitalist will be sure to regulate the rate of interest by the solvency of the borrower, and the risk run of getting back the principal and interest. This, said Mr. M., is an unerring law of trade.

Mr. Monett said that the high rate of interest of money, in this State, was created entirely by legislation. We had, by our laws, sanctioned usurious interest on money, and enabled the miserable broker or shaver to triumph on the ruins of meritorious branches of industry. We have given money a degree of relative value, when compared with labor and property, which was alike unjust and impolitic. In England and other countries of Europe, the rate of interest is regulated by law, and the consequence is, it is loaned and borrowed at less than one-half the rate set sanctioned by law in this State. He maintained that the rates of interest now sanctioned by law, could not fail to ruin any honest farmer or mechanic who undertook to pay them; and hence the necessity of interposing the penalties of the law against usury, and as a protection to the honest and unfortunate debtor. He had no doubt, exorbitant rates of interest had done, and were doing, more to destroy the prosperity of the State, and oppress and grind the faces of the poor, than our Internal Improvements and all other causes united.

Mr. Wright supported the bill regulating the rate of interest. He alluded to the effect of our present laws in aiding the foreign creditor to oppress and destroy the prosperity of our own citizens. The amount of interest paid by the people of Indiana on private contracts, he said, was enormous, and exceeded any thing that could be conjectured by persons who have not paid close attention to the subject. He knew of no State in the Union which authorized so high a rate of interest as Indiana. He, therefore, hoped the bill would be passed.

Mr. Carr said, if he thought this bill, could realize the hopes of its friends, and the objects which it proposes to attain, no man on that floor would more cheerfully support it than himself. He thought, however, it was perfect folly to expect, by legislation, to effect any such object. It was as vain and futile as to attempt to dam up White river. Money, like water, will obtain its own level. We may legislate until we grow grey, if we expect to reverse this universal law of trade. The penalties of the law will only sharpen the wits of the usurer in devising ways and means for defeating its provisions; for, in proportion to the risks of losing all, will the money-lender, by an increase of interest, guard himself against loss. He hoped the bill would be postponed.

Mr. Mount agreed with the gentleman from Lawrence. He had heard no remarks this winter which struck him with more force for their good sense. He said the attempt to regulate interest was, as the gentleman well said, like damming up White river; the effect of either only being to overflow and spread devastation and ruin in every direction.

Mr. Nave disagreed with the gentlemen from Franklin and Lawrence. He thought the Legislature should interpose its power to shield the honest portion of community against Shylocks and brokers. He alluded to the effects which usury was now producing throughout the State, and hoped, in view of the facts, the Senate would pass the bill.

Mr. Carr, of L., replied; and maintained, by argument, his former position. He said it was a fact well known that, high and exorbitant as gentlemen supposed the rates of interest to be, the present laws were evaded every day by Shavers, and rates of interest three or four times as great as that allowed bargained for, and easily obtained. Why, then, undertake to enact laws, when those now in force, with their complained of liberality to brokers, are rendered dead letters by the ingenuity of that keen-sighted class of people! It is folly to suppose that a reduction of interest to 6 per cent., will not, instead of diminishing the evils, furnish new incentives to a violation of the laws by brokers.

A motion for its indefinite postponement did not prevail—ayes 29, noes 29.

The bill was, on motion of Mr. Elliott, recommitted to the Judiciary committee.

A bill declaring the Lebanon and Crawfordsville road a public highway; and

A bill to amend an act pointing out a mode of levying taxes; were ordered to a third reading.

A bill regulating the rate of interest in the State of Indiana, and for other purposes, was referred to the judiciary committee.

A bill providing for the election of petit jurors in Hendricks county, and for other purposes; and

A bill respecting the county seminary in Gibson county; was ordered to a third reading.

A bill to amend an act to revise an act respecting Congressional townships; was referred to Committee on Education.

A bill to repeal an act respecting suspended claims on public works, was referred to the committee on internal improvements.

A bill to repeal an act providing for converting the college and seminary funds into bank stock, &c., was referred to committee on education.

A bill to amend an act defining duties of clerks; was referred to a select committee consisting of Messrs. Parker, Herriott and Herriman, with instructions on the subject of sheriff's duties in certain cases.

A joint resolution providing for the election, by joint ballot, of an agent to examine the State Bank and branches; was referred to the committee on Finance.

Mr. Chamberlain moved to instruct the committee, by inserting in the joint resolution after the words "prejudiced against," "or in favor of;" Mr. Collins moved to add, "or a member of the present General Assembly;" which instructions were adopted by consent.

A bill regulating the duties of county auditors; was referred to committee, to which was referred the bill regulating the duties of clerks.

A bill to authorize the adoption of that portion of the public lands to which Indiana is entitled, &c. was recommitted to committee on Finance.

A bill to abolish the office of Fund Commissioner and the Board of internal improvements; was referred to committee on canals and internal improvements.

On motion the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

A message from the Senate announced the passage of the following bills, to wit:

An act changing the time of holding the Madison Circuit Court; read a first and second time and ordered to be engrossed.

An act to amend an act entitled "an act incorporating Congressional townships and providing for public schools therein, approved February 17, 1838, approved February 15, 1841; read and passed to a second reading.

An act for the relief of borrowers of school and surplus revenue funds; read twice and referred to the judiciary committee.

Mr. Dunbar from the select committee to whom the petition of sundry citizens of certain counties therein named, in reference to certain privileges to S. P. Moore, successor to Moore and Lawrence, relative to a mill dam, was referred, reported against the prayer of the petitioners; which was not concurred in.

On motion, the report, &c., were referred to the committee on the judiciary.

Resolutions.—By Mr. Stratton, That the Engineer having the superintendence of the Madison and Indianapolis Rail Road report to this House as soon as practicable, the estimates due the several contractors thereon up to this time, and whether the contracts have all been completed or suspended, and when.

By Mr. Chapman of H., that the committee on the judiciary be requested to inquire into the expediency of amending the law concerning crimes and punishments where fine and cost is the only punishment provided for by said act, so that the body of no person shall hereafter be imprisoned for said costs.

By Mr. Bowers, that the committee on education be instructed to report to this House a bill providing for the distribution among the several counties of the State for the support of common schools, the portion of the proceeds of the public lands to which the State of Indiana is, or may be entitled by the act of Congress, providing for the distribution of the proceeds of the public lands to the different states.

By Mr. Sinks, to amend the road law, as to require three of the petitioners to be residents of the neighborhood, to so change that law, as to require a majority of such petitioners, for such change, to reside in the immediate neighborhood where such change is required to be made.

By Mr. Foley, that the committee on canals and internal improvements be instructed to inquire into the expediency of repealing "an act to provide for the settlement of suspended claims for labor on the public works," approved February 15, 1841, such repealing act not to take effect until the first day of March, 1842.

By Mr. Deming, that the committee on roads be instructed to report a bill, providing for the setting up of gates in certain county roads running through the county of Tippecanoe.

By Mr. Funk, that the investigating committee be instructed to ascertain, if possible, the amount of State bonds sold or hypothecated, for which no valuable consideration has been received; also to identify said bonds; also the amount and identity of bonds *not* now in possession of the State, which have not been sold or hypothecated, and report to this House.

By Mr. Chapman, relative to a set of Blackford's reports for Hancock county library.

By Mr. Norvell, relative to summoning petit jurors from the by-standers in Lawrence county.

By Mr. Leslie, that a select committee be appointed to report, as near as may be, for the information of this House, the number of acres of Congress land remaining unsold in each county in this State, in the Cincinnati, Jeffersonville and Vincennes districts, and south of the National Road; and also to report to this House a memorial, the object of which shall be to memorialize Congress to grant to the State of Indiana all the lands which lie within the boundaries of said State, (that have been in market for fifteen years, and have not been entered or sold,) for the purpose of aiding in prosecution to completion, some of the most important of the public works of said state.

By Mr. Williamson, that the committee on the judiciary to whom was referred a bill for the reduction of the interest on, and for extending the time of payment of the surplus revenue fund, school fund, &c., be instructed to inquire into the expediency of amending the same so as to except Union, De Kalb and Steuben counties from the provisions of said bill, so far as it relates to the reduction of interest thereon.

By Mr. Devin, that the committee of ways and means be instructed to inquire into the expediency of so amending the 12th section of an act entitled "act pointing out the mode of levying taxes, as to require the assessor to call to his assistance, in the valuation of town property, one resident freeholder of the town, the property of which he may be required to value, with leave to report by bill or otherwise.

By Mr. Simonson, that the select committee, to which was referred a resolution in regard to the number of jurors to be summoned for each week of the Circuit Court in certain counties, be instructed to inquire into the expediency of amending the existing laws in respect to jurors, so as to provide, that the number of petit jurors to be summoned for each week of the Circuit Court, be at the discretion of the Boards doing county business in the several counties.

By Mr. Robinsin of C., that the committee on agriculture be instructed to inquire into the expediency of reporting to this House a bill relating to marks and brands of cattle, sheep and hogs.

By Mr. Graham, that the committee on education be requested to inquire into the expediency of so amending the 6th section of the 6th chapter of the school law, that said section be repealed, and make it the duty of the school commissioner to loan the funds therein named, for the benefit of the township not applying the same.

By Mr. O'Neal, to amend the road law relative to the time of working on roads for personal privilege, so far as the counties of Greene and Owen are concerned.

By Mr. Bearss, that the committee on canals, &c., inquire into the expediency of the State paying a bounty on all Muk-rats caught or killed in the Wabash and Erie canal.

Bills presented.—By Mr. Chapman of H., to vacate the town of Benton, in Hancock county;

By Mr. Defrees, from the judiciary committee to abolish public executions.

By Mr. Yocum, changing the mode of doing county business in the county of Clay;

By Mr. Townsend, to limit the jurisdiction of justices of the peace in Hendricks county; which were read and passed to a second reading.

Bills passed.—For the relief of Samuel Snoddy.

Locating a State road in Clay county.

Amending an act entitled "an act for the payment of contractors on the Wabash and Erie canal east of the mouth of Tippecanoe river.

For the relief of William M'Clure of Franklin county.

Supplemental to an act entitled "an act for the prevention of frauds and perjuries in relation to deeds.

To revive an act entitled an act to incorporate the town of Mooresville in Morgan county.

To legalize the marriage of William Gapin and Malinda G. Moore;

Amendatory of an act entitled "an act providing for a more uniform mode of doing township business, &c., in relation to Posey county.

Mr. Hannegan now moved to take up a bill providing for the relief of the borrowers of the sinking and other funds; which motion was decided in the affirmative, and the bill referred to the judiciary committee.

On motion of Mr. Brown of M., the House proceeded to the consideration of the joint resolution on the subject of fugitives from justice; which was amended and ordered to be engrossed.

Mr. Leslie, on leave, offered the following preamble and resolution:

Whereas, it is important, that the committees of this House should have time to prepare business; therefore, resolved, that when this House shall adjourn on this afternoon, it will adjourn until Monday morning next.

Mr. Chapman moved to amend the preamble, so as to read—"Whereas, many members wish to go home and see their families," &c.; which amendment did not prevail.

Mr. Wines of Allen moved to amend, so as to provide for an adjournment from to-morrow until Monday; which motion was negatived.

On the question, shall the resolution be adopted? it was decided in the negative, ayes 7, noes 89.

Mr. Cogswell, on leave, offered the following resolution, to wit:

Resolved, that the Chief Engineer be directed to communicate to this House the amount, that has been applied on the construction of the Northern portion of the Central canal, and the manner in which the same has been expended.

On motion of Mr. Quick, resolved, that the Chief Engineer be requested to communicate to this House, without delay, the number of sections completed on the Madison and Indianapolis Rail Road from the Depot to Edinburg, together with such information, in regard to the probable tolls, as he may be in possession of.

Mr. Bradley now moved to take from the table the joint resolution from the Senate, providing for a more economical Board of Equalization; which motion was negatived, ayes 42, noes 53.

A joint resolution for the benefit of the citizens of the reserved township land in Gibson county was read a third time and passed.

Mr. Myers presented the proceedings of a meeting of the citizens of Knox, praying for the passage of a relief law, to wit: That property on execution shall not sell for less than two-thirds of its market valuation; read and laid upon the table.

☞The following communication should have been published two or three days since, but other matter crowded it out.

RELIEF MEASURES.

There is great danger that the just expectations of the country will be disappointed in the measures of relief that are anticipated by the people. There is no danger but that the popular branch will do its duty. But unfortunately for a distressed people, the wing lawyers of the Senate have an undue ascendancy. The lawyers, it is well known, require but a few old musty law-books to sustain himself in business; whereas the farmer and mechanic require more or less capital, in property, subject to the mercy of creditors, in times of embarrassment. The lawyer also, it is well known, lives on the misfortunes of the people, and the greater the distress the greater will be his means of profit. All these circumstances combine to throw the lawyer-interest which is now tremendous in both branches of the legislature, against relief measures. We are pleased to notice, however, that the Democratic lawyers, headed by Mr. Hannegan, are nearly unanimous in favor of relief. Mr. Marshall of the House and Mr. Baird of the Senate also favor measures of relief to a certain extent. But the *