

The Senate met to-day, pursuant to adjournment from yesterday, but the Chair was not taken till nearly half past 12, as there was not a quorum present till that time. Lieutenant Governor Voorhees presiding.

In response to the calling of the roll, twenty members were found present.

The following Senators were present during the proceedings: Messrs. Anderson, Armstrong, Barrow, Bell, Brantley, Brasé, Burdick, Campbell, Cooze, Gibson, Duvigneaud, Egan, Ellis, Followell, Fouts, Galloway, Gordon, Hough, Kavanaugh, Kenner, Lapeyre, Lott, Nathan, Monday, Nelson, Newton, of Jackson, Newton, of Morehouse, Palfrey, Purcell, Sprague, Taylor, Welch and Wilcoxson.

A message was received from the House of Representatives through Mr. Halsey, Assistant Clerk. It announced that the House had concurred in the act to authorize John Stannett and James McCloskey to remove obstructions from Holmes' Bayou.

In the act to authorize the leasing of the New Orleans and Great Western Railroad; and in certain of the Senate's amendments to the act to authorize the leasing of the New Orleans and Great Western Railroad; and in certain of the Senate's amendments to the act to authorize the leasing of the New Orleans and Great Western Railroad.

Mr. Palfrey called up the bill for the relief of Sarah L., widow of the late J. G. Chablon; to the bill to authorize the Governor to execute the act of indemnity to the amount of \$200,000 for levee purposes, etc., to the bill to authorize the sale of meats, fish, fruit, vegetables and market produce in private markets, stores, shops, stands, etc., to the joint resolution in reference to the Academy Department building of the University; to the act exempting from the payment of State taxes during the year 1865 certain cases.

Mr. Kenner, on behalf of Mr. Abney, absent with leave on account of sickness, called up the bill in relation to constructing a plank road from Red Chute to Red River. It was carried through its various stages and passed.

Mr. Palfrey called up the bill for the relief of C. P. Bringer. The Senator explained that Mr. Bringer had preserved for four years valuable documents which had originally been in the possession of his father, the former Surveyor General. The appropriation proposed was \$500. On motion of Mr. Armstrong, the bill was referred to the Committee on Finance.

A message from the House of Representatives was received through Mr. Halsey, Assistant Clerk. It announced that the House had concurred in the act to provide for the payment of contingent expenses of the General Assembly, and in the act to amend the charter.

Mr. Duvigneaud, on behalf of Mr. Nolan, called up the bill for the relief of S. P. Lhote, appropriating three hundred dollars under an amendment proposed by the committee, instead of four hundred dollars, the original sum asked, for services as secretary to the Committee on Railroads. After a brief discussion, the bill was referred to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. Kenner, on behalf of Mr. Nelson, called up the bill to amend the act to provide for the relief of the former Surveyor General. The appropriation proposed was \$500. On motion of Mr. Armstrong, the bill was referred to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. Kenner, on behalf of the Senator from Claiborne, Mr. Abney, called up the bill relative to the navigation of Bayou Corneille.

On motion of Mr. Kenner, seconded by Mr. Palfrey, the bill was referred to the Committee on Public Works, Land and Levees.

Mr. Monday called up the bill to authorize the return of appeals since the first of June, 1860, for the district courts of the State, and not determined in the courts of the United States, and in the various stages, passed, and went to the other House.

Mr. Ellis called up the resolution appropriating \$500 for the purchase and gratuitous distribution of Spencer's English grammar throughout the State, at a cost not exceeding seventy-five cents per copy. The Senator stated that the author of the work, Mr. J. T. Spencer, had devoted his whole life to education, and it was a great advantage for the State to have such a work. He had devoted a number of years to the preparation of this work; but in 1851 he himself called upon to take part in the late struggle, and at the siege of Vicksburg he received wounds of which he died. Inference to the public of the work, the State Superintendent of Public Education, and the Superintendent of public schools in New Orleans, Mr. Rogers, had given certificates of approval. The widow of Mr. Spencer was unable to carry out the publication of the work, and the object of the bill is to have this done. He hoped the Senate would concur in the resolution of the House, where the Committee on Claims had reported in favor of it; and he thought the legislature could not make a more suitable appropriation, as it was in support of Southern literary efforts. The money would come out of the public school fund, so that there would be no additional tax on that score.

Mr. Palfrey moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Public Education.

On a division, the secretary announced that the vote was twelve for the motion and eleven against, but the assistant secretary reported the vote as a tie of twelve.

The President gave the casting vote against the reference.

Mr. Kenner said there was some mistake in recording the vote, and he should move that the division be taken again.

This being done, the result was a tie of thirteen.

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Carrollton, and the act to legalize the contract between Miss. Boone and the State. The bill was passed.

Mr. Taylor offered a resolution that the Judiciary Committee be instructed to inquire into the compatibility of members of the General Assembly holding positions on the Board of Levee Commissioners. The resolution was adopted.

Mr. Newton, of Morehouse, called up the bill for the relief of the foreign grand juries to admit to an oath of secrecy to witnesses examined before them similar to that imposed upon grand juries themselves.

Mr. Palfrey was opposed to these interferences with well-tried and established principles of law, and would like to have the bill referred.

Mr. Barthe thought there was no ground for objection to proceeding to act upon the bill.

Mr. Lott considered that the difference of opinion between the gentlemen of the law about the bill was sufficient to show the necessity of referring it. He moved that it be referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. Agreed to.

Mr. Taylor presented a report from the Committee on the Penitentiary, with a substitute for the bill referred to them, providing that parties sentenced to the State penitentiary who have been incarcerated in the parish prison for the period during which the penitentiary was inaccessible or unusable, should be considered to have undergone their sentence at the penitentiary.

After a brief discussion the bill was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. Newton, of Morehouse, called up the bill to authorize the Vicksburg, Shreveport and Texas Railroad Company to change the eastern terminus of their road. The Senator stated that the object was to avoid an impracticable quarrel between the National and Vicksburg, and to fix the terminus at Milliken's Bend.

Mr. Lott explained that there was a dispute as to whether the new purchasers of the road were to possess the franchises as well as of the property. Under the terms of the bill there would be twenty miles of bearing to be done. And the iron would be carried out to other points. He thought the bill objectionable.

Mr. Kenner was satisfied the subject ought to be referred to the Committee on Public Works, Land and Levees. The road had been first sold for \$500,000, but the sheriff refused to deliver it, for some reason. It was again put up for sale, and sold for \$300,000. The question was, what was to become of the interest of Louisiana in this road. The Attorney General had been instructed to inquire if the sheriff had the right to sell the highway. It was agreed that the persons who had bought the road for \$300,000 come forward and try to get the legislature to acknowledge that such had been done with the recognition of the fact of the sale of the franchises of the road.

Mr. Wilcoxson seconded the motion for reference. Mr. Hough spoke in support of the passage of the bill.

Mr. Palfrey moved that it be referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

This motion prevailed.

Mr. Barrow called up the bill to provide for the organization of the Orleans regiment of militia. Reported on motion of Mr. Bell to the Committee on Militia with instructions to report to-morrow if practicable.

Mr. Palfrey presented a report from the committee to whom was referred the bill to make the Bayou Plaquemines navigable throughout the year.

Mr. Brantley, from the Committee on Enrolments, reported as corrected enrolled the bill to authorize the lease of the Opelousas railroad, and the act to authorize John C. Stannett and James McCloskey to remove obstructions from Holmes' Bayou.

A message was received from the House of Representatives, through Mr. Halsey, Assistant Clerk. It announced that the House had concurred in the act to fix the terms of the Fourth Judicial District Court, and in the act for the relief of Theodore Darel and R. D. Hubbard.

Mr. Anderson called up the bill declaring the Bayou Houma a navigable waterway, and the act to authorize the various stages, passed, and went to the other House.

On motion of Mr. Wilcoxson, the resolution to provide for the payment of contingent expenses of the General Assembly, amounting to \$175,000, was adopted.

The Senate went into executive session.

On resuming an informal recess was taken till half-past 7 o'clock p. m., for the purpose of the bill for the relief of the late Senator upon the particular and results of the visit of the legislative commission to Washington.

Mr. Kenner, before proceeding to the particular purpose for which the Senate had reassembled after recess, offered a resolution inviting the Speaker of the House to send a committee of Representatives to visit the Senate Chamber during the delivery of the report of Senator Egan, on behalf of the legislative commission sent to Washington.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

The Chamber of the Senate was immediately filled with a large number of persons anxious to hear the report on behalf of the commission.

Mr. Egan addressed the Senate and invited guests to a considerable length and in a most interesting manner, the commission to Washington. Within the prescribed limits of his report nothing but an outline of his speech could be given. He commenced by giving a narrative of events from the time of the appointment of the commission until its return, stating the dates, modes of passage to Washington, and so forth.

He then addressed the question of what the commission had accomplished. In the first place, he urged that it was a great advantage for the representatives of the people of Louisiana to have met the President face to face, and to find that they could and did talk frankly, fully and freely to him about matters of interest connected with our State affairs. But it was still more gratifying to know that he had expressed himself to the commission and to others, as highly gratified and strongly impressed with the representations of the commissioners. The President had given the commission to understand that he fully appreciated the people of Louisiana, and relied upon them, as he is confident the whole people of the South do upon him. He perfectly understood the sentiments, wants and condition of the people, and his benevolence he is likely to be swayed by misrepresentations, come from whom they may. Besides conferring with the President, and contributing to the desirable results just indicated, the commission conferred with members of the Cabinet and others, with the view of seeing the policy of the President explained, and they have every reason to conclude that their efforts were as effective as could be desired. In the course of the interviews with the President, he made use of expressions which left no doubt on their minds that, as far and as promptly as in his power, he would do the best for the people of Louisiana and of the South generally.

Another great advantage which, it is concluded, will be attained by the visit of the commissioners, is that the President will in future be more easily approached, and that their complaints will be listened to and their requests be granted, if in accordance with his views of policy. With regard to the convention question, the commission had obtained a satisfactory solution, which was far preferable to the conditions of doubt to which we and laborers

were left, although it might not be as satisfactory to some as they could wish. The hostilities course of the legislature on this question heretofore, showed the importance of this decision. Had there been no doubt upon the point the convention would have been called before the adjournment of the legislature; whereas it will not now be at all present, for fear of complicating and embarrassing matters. The commission left nothing undone to secure a convention if practicable, and had succeeded when the President decided that it would be better not to call one for the present for fear of the act that might be made of it by radical enthusiasts. Yielding to this advice will strengthen the favorable impressions made by the course of the commissioners. The President will then listen the better to the appeals made to him from the South, and grant them as far as consistent with his policy.

The general situation and prospects of the commission though promising. The masses are everywhere rallying to the support of the President. And the West, oppressed by the East beyond tolerance, is looking wistfully for an alliance with the South as its natural ally. The Senator earnestly exhorted to patience and a hearty support of the President's policy. We regret that we are unable to do anything like justice to his speech to-night. A written report of the proceedings of the convention will be presented, perhaps, to-morrow.

The audience manifested their appreciation of the speech of the Senator by loud and repeated applause.

After he had concluded, the Senate adjourned to meet to-morrow, Thursday, March 22d, 1866.

House of Representatives. The House came to order at 11 o'clock, Mr. Egan, Speaker pro tem., presiding.

Prayer by Rev. Dr. Hedges.

Mr. Solomon moved a reconsideration of the vote of yesterday, by which the Senate bill authorizing the New Orleans, Opelousas and Great Western Railroad Company to lease the road, was laid upon the table.

Mr. Frazier opposed the reconsideration, and argued against the bill. He admitted the House also that measures of great public interest, among them the revenue bill, were still in abeyance; and if time was frittered away by discussing comparatively unimportant measures, either the government would be without means for its support, or an extra session would have to be called.

Mr. Egan, Mr. Tucker in the Chair, addressed the House in support of the bill and in favor of a reconsideration.

Mr. McHenry, though a friend of the bill, would vote for a reconsideration, because he was apprehensive there was not sufficient time to pass even the revenue bill, as it was a very lengthy one, and he understood there were objections to it which were likely to provoke lengthy discussions. If the Assembly should adjourn without passing a revenue law the consequences would be a great deterioration of State securities, and an incalculable injury to the public interests.

Mr. Tucker advocated the bill and moved the previous question, but withdrew it to allow further argument.

The motion to reconsider prevailed, and the measure having been further discussed by Messrs. Fenner and Tucker, the motion was put for concurrence in the bill on its second reading, and it was concurred in, yeas 62; nays 15.

The rules having been suspended, the bill was concurred in on its last reading and returned to the Senate.

Mr. McConnell, from the special committee to whom was referred the bill authorizing the common council of New Orleans to increase the salary of the mayor of the city, to any amount not to exceed eight thousand dollars per annum, reported the bill favorably.

Mr. Bailey was opposed to the bill, and a member of the committee, announced his purpose in submitting a minority report.

Mr. McCloskey also expressed himself adverse to the change, and moved to amend by fixing the maximum amount at six thousand five hundred dollars.

The amendment was rejected, and the bill was passed and sent to the Senate.

Mr. Wiltz, from the Committee on Contingent Expenses, introduced a bill appropriating \$20,000 from the contingent fund to pay the members and officers of the Assembly. The bill passed.

Mr. Simons, from the select committee appointed to investigate charges against the management of the New Orleans and Jackson Railroad, submitted a report, which was ordered to be printed for consideration at the next session.

Mr. Scanlan introduced a resolution allowing one hundred dollars to each clergyman who had opened his doors to the people during the session. Mr. Sutter offered a substitute which was adopted, providing that the clergymen should each be allowed seven dollars per diem, for the days of actual attendance.

On motion of Mr. McConnell Speaker Egan and Mr. Ebnis, the representatives on the part of the House who have just returned from a visit to President Johnson, which they had made as legislative commissioners, were unanimously invited to address the House upon the subject of their mission.

Soon after the passage of this resolution it was announced that the gentlemen of the commission were ready to address the House.

Mr. Davis was speaking from his seat, when members advised that, to enable a better and more general hearing, he should speak from the speaker's platform, which, in compliance of the wishes of the House, he did.

Mr. Davis addressed the House in a very impressive manner. His speech was nearly half an hour long, and was heard with deep and unreserved attention.

The limits of these reports are confined to abstracts and we can give only an outline of Mr. Davis' discourse.

He commenced by expressing the desires of the people and the distinct wish of the Legislature signified to the President the great public feeling for a constitutional convention. The President was pleased to find the commission did not approach him as the representatives of party, but as the exponents of great public interests, and made many practical inquiries as to the condition and wants of the people of Louisiana. The commission informed him of the ardent desire of the people for a convention. They presented every view, urged every argument, enforced every consideration. The President seemed deeply impressed with the reasons laid before him, and requested the commission to confer with the members of his Cabinet. At this conference the injuries suffered by the people of Louisiana in consequence of their uncertain relations as to conflicting organic laws and conflicting governments, were presented; the general feeling for a convention was shown, and the deference of the legislature to the expressed wishes of the President, in restraining the popular will on this matter, were dwelt upon. The result was known. The attitude of the majority in Congress was such that the President and his advisers thought it inexpedient to encourage any agitation.

The people of Louisiana were doubtless disappointed, but notwithstanding their disappointment on this matter, the mission of the delegation was not without the beneficial results. In the first place they had prepared a solution of this convention question. Upon another question a precise and absolute answer had been obtained by the Constitution of 1861. The idea had been submitted to the Cabinet of appointing a provisional Governor for Louisiana, and a recognition of the Constitution of 1861, of the organic law of the State, was the result of a discussion of that question.

The refusal to appoint a provisional Governor was regarded as conclusive of the determination of the government to recognize the Constitution of 1861, and of Johnson and his cabinet, in view of the attitude of the radical party, deemed a constitutional convention in this State, at present, a measure from which the opponents of his policy might gather weapons to impair his strength.

The cabinet thought that a convention was called for, should be held, and the extreme condition that was thought to be tantamount to a convention of 1861, but that the convention should not meet that Constitution simply to amend and perfect it.

The mission had accomplished important ends in bringing these questions to a decision. The people would be no longer agitated by vague discussions of the questions. The attitude of the Federal government was now clearly known.

Mr. Davis closed his remarks with a suggestion, that the greatest circumlocution became the people of the South in this crisis. The radicals were going before the Northern people without principle, and upon a question of fact, the loyalty of the South. All the President wished was that we should remain perfectly quiet, and Mr. Davis deprecated the rashness or indiscretions of the radicals, who might be used by the enemies of the President's policy, however unjustly, as proof of general infidelity.

Mr. Cane next addressed the House. He endorsed the suggestions of Mr. Davis. The commission had returned with the gratifying conviction that at the head of the Federal government we had a citizen wise and eminently patriotic, who would prove a true friend to the Southern people in the vindication of their constitutional rights.

The American people had a citizen for chief magistrate who was armed with an unquearable purpose to preserve the liberties of the country.

The remarks of both the commissioners were received with applause, and on motion of Mr. Walker the thanks of the House were voted to the gentlemen for the very able manner in which they had discharged their duties as commissioners, and the interesting reports they had given of their mission.

Mr. Cane then, as Speaker, took the Chair, and on motion of Mr. Williamson a resolution complimentary to the Speaker pro tem., Mr. Egan, was adopted, to which that gentleman briefly replied, and in a manner to challenge the applause of the House.

The House then proceeded to its ordinary business.

The Senate bill for the relief of Theodore Darel and R. D. Hubbard was concurred in.

The Senate bill to fix the terms of the court in the fourth judicial district of the State was concurred in.

Mr. Egan asked for a suspension of the rules, to take up one of his bills, intended to operate as a way law.

Mr. Palfrey asked a suspension of the rules. The vote was taken, and the bill was passed.

Mr. Williamson moved a suspension of the rules to take up the revenue bill, and it was taken up, but was temporarily suspended to pass a bill introduced by Mr. Walker, to amend the law to license the sale of lottery tickets.

On motion of Mr. Lipson, chairman of the joint committee appointed to examine the affairs of the New Orleans Gas Company, that committee was allowed to sit during the recess.

The House then adjourned.

BY SENATE SESSION. The House met at 7 o'clock, Speaker Egan presiding.

An invitation was received from the Senate to hear the remarks of Senator Egan, one of the commissioners to the President of the United States, on the subject of his mission, and, on motion of Mr. Scanlan, the House took a recess, and the members proceeded in a body to the Senate Chamber to hear the address of Mr. Egan.

It was nearly nine o'clock when the members returned from the other chamber.

The Senate bill relative to appeals to the Supreme Court, taken since June 1, 1860, was concurred in.

Mr. Simons' bill, requiring the public lands of the State to be advertised discretely and sold at public auction for a price not less than one dollar per acre, was passed.

Mr. McConnell called up the Senate bill depriving the Governor of the State and the mayor of New Orleans of any participation in the election of directors of the New Orleans and Jackson Railroad, further than the appointment vested in them by law, of three directors each.

Messrs. McConnell, Leeds and Bailey addressed the House in favor of the bill, ratifying the propriety of withdrawing political influences from the management of works of Federal interest, and showing the moral gain exercised by the city and State in being first allowed to appoint directors, and after appointing those directors, voting the strength of their stocks for other directors.

Mr. Walker would not consent to deprive the Governor or mayor of the power exercised by them in the corporation as representatives of public interests.

Mr. Williamson had not often the pleasure of voting on the same side with the gentleman from St. Bernard, but on this occasion felt constrained to side with him, and he heard better reasons than has been given for the bill.

Mr. McConnell again addressed the House on the subject, explaining that the State of Mississippi had already passed an act in relation to her interests, similar to the bill before the House, and that she was not to be outdone by the State of Louisiana. It was proposed to give the city and State but six directors out of twenty-seven. The argument in favor of the bill, "political influence" was an implication that citizens filling public offices was not expected to discharge their duties with fidelity or integrity, an argument that might be applied to every public officer.

Mr. McHenry could not favor a bill proposing to surrender the ruling influence which the State and city were entitled in the direction of the road.

Mr. Wagonman said the State of Mississippi owned but \$150,000 of the stock, while this State and city owned \$140,000. The invitation of Mississippi to this legislators was to adopt a measure giving her additional power in the management of the corporation.

Mr. Scanlan admitted that improper influences might be brought to bear in such offices as this, but he had been told that a former mayor had been

offered a hundred thousand dollars to cast his vote in a certain way.

This might be true, and the fact that corruptions were attempted or attempted were accomplished would show human weakness, but did not argue that public officers should not be trusted. They must necessarily be trusted, and there was no reason for partially disfranchising the State solely in the management of its work that would not apply to every other Federal authority.

Mr. Gates, as a member of the Committee on Railroads, had thoroughly investigated this question, and his conclusion, in common with the other members of the committee, was that the interests of the State and of the road would be benefited by this bill.

Mr. Thompson moved to postpone the bill indefinitely.

Mr. McConnell disclaimed any purpose of showing a want of confidence in the chief magistrate of the State or the mayor of the city. His object was to provide against possibilities that may arise. He was satisfied, however, that the House was not sufficiently informed now, in relation to the measure, to vote intelligently, and he moved to lay the bill on the table subject to call.

The bill was laid on the table, subject to call.

On motion of Mr. Murland, the Senate bill granting forty privileges to Mrs. J. V. Hedges across Jones Bayou, in the parish of Cadeo, was taken up and concurred in.

The House then adjourned at half-past ten.

Special to the Orleans Crescent FROM WASHINGTON. WASHINGTON, March 21, 1866.

THE LOUISIANA DELEGATION. The commissioners from our State remained here until after a meeting of the day and evening sessions, appointments were honored by another interview with the President. At former audiences Mr. Johnson had not entertained any fixed opinions on the proper policy with reference to State local affairs. Mr. Seward, however, was rather disinclined to favor the calling of a convention. The result of the last interviews was a total impression, the prepossession of the President's mind, and the adoption of a change, an ultimate decision in favor of a convention seemed exceedingly probable. Under these circumstances, the delegation, anxious to reach New Orleans some time before the adjournment on the 23d inst., left Washington this evening. The President intended to communicate with Gov. Wells by telegram, and the commissioners would probably receive a final response from the White House, on Monday.

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that acting Recorder Kneebly is desirous of installing his successor in office, but the unexplained action of the Governor has thus far placed matters in a dead-lock. We understand that Recorder Aborn has been advised by eminent counsel to assume his position to-day, and that he will do so.

EMERGENCY AND REARREST.—Capt. J. C. Cobles, who has been under arrest some time on a charge of obtaining a steamboat by means of false representations, and who was allowed to remain at a boarding house on Dryades street, eluded the vigilance of Officer Williamson, who had charge of him, yesterday morning, and escaped. The detective force were immediately put on the alert, but Williams succeeded, about 6 o'clock last night, in discovering the traitor. The prosecutors in the case are Messrs. A. B. Tracy & Co., of Mobile.

FIRE ALARM.—The alarm of fire at half-past 5 o'clock, yesterday, was given on account of a sign of danger observed in a house at the corner of Jackson and Canal streets, occupied by some mechanic. No damage resulted from the fire, which was extinguished by the fire department.

REARREST.—The residence of Mr. Kelf, on Second street, between St. Charles and Carondelet, was robbed of a lot of silver spoons and forks, and the act is charged to a servant who has turned up absent, but whose presence will, doubtless, soon be insured by the police.