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VOLUME II—NO. 117. NEW ORLEANS, SUNDAY MORNING, AUGUST 23, 1868. WHOLE NUMBER 427.

BY TELEGRAPH.

[Dispatches to the Associated Press.]

FROM WASHINGTON

Supervising Districts South.

More Indian Outrages.

GENERAL SHERIDAN ON THE WAR PATH.

Government Employes in Trouble.

LATEST NEWS FROM EUROPE.

PLAN TO ASSASSINATE VICTORIA.

FROM HAVANA AND SOUTH AMERICA.

THE WAR IN PANAMA ENDED.

INTERESTING MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

MARKETS, RIVER NEWS, ETC.

WASHINGTON.

The Alaska Collector—Government Employes in Trouble about an Eight Hour Decision—Supervising Districts South—Indian Outrages—Sheridan on the Avenging Path

WASHINGTON, August 22.—Hiram Ketchum, of New York, collector of Alaska, was at the Treasury Department to-day receiving instructions.

Attorney General Evarts will spend two weeks in Vermont.

Government employes have petitioned the President against the Secretary of War's decision about the eight hour law. The petition argues that the debate and vote pending the passage of the bill indicated that no reduction of wages was to follow the reduction of time.

The following are the supervising districts South under the new tax law: Tenth, Virginia and West Virginia; eleventh, North and South Carolina; twelfth, Georgia, Florida, and Alabama; thirteenth, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Arkansas; fourteenth, Texas; fifteenth, Tennessee. McCulloch has taken no action on Rollins' nominations for supervisors.

Sherman's dispatches corroborate the newspaper accounts of Indian outrages.

General Sheridan telegraphs that they are too horrible for detail. Sherman directs Sheridan to follow and administer summary punishment.

Secretary Wells has arrived at New York on his inspection tour. He returns next week.

FOREIGN.

International Yacht Race Postponed—Ship Seized at Berlin for Giving Emigrants Insufficient Food—Plan to Assassinate Queen Victoria in Switzerland—Iron-Clad Builders Bankrupt—Russian Affairs—An Editor in Trouble.

LONDON, August 22.—The international yacht race has been postponed to Tuesday.

BERLIN, August 22.—The ship Liebeg, formerly the Leibnitz, has been seized by the government for giving emigrants insufficient food and shelter whereby many died.

LUCERNE, Switzerland, August 22.—The authorities have indisputable evidence of a plot to assassinate Queen Victoria during her visit here.

PARIS, August 22.—Messrs. Arman, against whom the United States got judgment for building ironclads, have been declared bankrupt by the High Court of Appeals.

ST. PETERSBURG, August 22.—The government has later advice from Bokhara. The Emir has signified his willingness to accept the terms of peace offered by the Czar, with the exception, however, of the duty of building fortifications.

LONDON, August 22.—It is deemed proper to state that the dispatch announcing the attempted assassination of Queen Victoria, in Switzerland, was received through the regular news channel. The Foreign Office here, however, have received no advices of the affair beyond that contained in the telegram in question.

PARIS, August 23.—The proprietors of the *Lanterne*, the editor of which was recently sentenced to fine for violating the press law, yesterday attempted to resume publication. The police, however, were notified, and an entire edition was confiscated.

HAVANA.

Deaths by Cholera—English and French Vessels Refused Permission to Enter on an Equality with Spanish Vessels.

NEW YORK, August 22.—Advices from Havana by steamer state that the exodus during the summer amounted to 60,000 persons, many of whom fled through fear of cholera. In July and August there were 360 deaths from that disease.

Lorenzo B. Shepherd, a New Yorker, and friend of Peter Cooper, died last week of vomito. Three royal decrees are published, one of which empowers the Banco Español, of Havana, to collect all direct taxes for four years.

Under the Royal decree permitting foreign vessels to enter the ports of Cuba and Porto Rico on an equality with Spanish vessels, whenever such privileges are granted to Spanish vessels in the ports of the nations to which such foreign vessels belong, several English and French vessels had claimed the privilege, but it was refused.

SOUTH AMERICA.

Mission to Summon Bruzual to Surrender.

NEW YORK, August 22.—One day's later advices from Venezuela report a mission to Porto Cabello to summon Bruzual to surrender was spoken of in Monoyas' command.

The Falconists number eight hundred men in that town, and the place has been strongly fortified. The Bolivar and Mariscal are blockading Laguayra, and the affairs of Falcon generally looked much more promising.

PANAMA.

Arrival of a Steamer—The War in Panama Ended—Tremendous Storm on the Isthmus.

NEW YORK, August 22.—The steamer Arizona, from Aspinwall, brings $844,000 in specie.

The war in Panama is at an end, all parties having submitted to the provisional government. A Constituent Assembly is convoked to meet in October.

There has been a tremendous thunder and lightning storm on the Isthmus, which occasioned considerable damage to the railway wharf and other buildings.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Cattle Plague in Cincinnati—The Alexandria Railroad Trouble Ended—Contested Senatorial Seat in Georgia—Fire in Natchez.

CINCINNATI, August 22—The cattle plague has appeared here; seventeen cows, belonging to one dairy, have been stricken with it, and are dying rapidly.

ALEXANDRIA, VA., August 22.—Judge Underwood directs that the Alexandria and Washington railroad be restored to the lessees under requisite bonds. Trains will resume on Monday.

ATLANTA, August 22.—The petition of R. E. Lester claiming the seat in the Senate made vacant by the resignation of Bradley, of the First District, was granted: Yeas 18; nays 11. Lester was sworn in and took his seat.

NATCHEZ, August 22.—At 2:30 this A. M. a fire was discovered under the bill. Three buildings were consumed; loss $18,000, insured for $6060 in the Ætna Company.

At four o'clock A. M. a brick wall fell, seriously injuring four firemen.

River Intelligence.

SOUTH WEST PASS, August 22, 6 P. M.—Barometer 29 70; wind north-east, light. Weather squally. Arrived Cork, Limerick Lass, Marsden, master, from Newport, with cargo of iron for master. Sailed—Steamship Clinton and I. C. Harris.

LOUISVILLE, August 22.—Weather cloudy. Thermometer 76. River falling, 45 inches in the canal.

ST. LOUIS, August 22—River declining.

MARKETS.

Domestic Markets.

NEW YORK, August 22.—Money easier at 3@5 for call loans; sterling firm at 9⅛; gold firmer at 144½. Governments dull and heavy. Cotton more steady; sales 900 bales; middlings 30c. Flour dull, 20@30c. lower during the day; Southern brands range from $8 70@14 75. Wheat 2@3c. lower. Corn 1@2c. lower. Whisky firmer at 71c. in bond. Mess pork quiet at $28 50@28 62½. Lard and naval stores quiet. Freights lower.

NEW YORK, August 22.—The bank statement shows a decrease in loans of $2,562,000; of specie $3,185,000; of circulation $23,000; of deposits $7,124,000; of legal tenders $3 177,000; balance in the subtreasury $86 000,000.

CINCINNATI, August 22.—Flour dull; 10@15c. lower; family $9 75@10 25. Wheat $2. Corn 92@93c. Oats 55c. Whiskey held at 65c. Pork held at $28 75. Lard 18½c. Bulk meats—shoulders 12½c.; sides 14½c. Bacon—shoulders 13½@13⅝c.; clear sides 17½c.; sugar-cured hams 20½@21½c. Butter 35@36c. Cheese ½@1c. higher. Eggs 15@16c. Apples $5@7.

Foreign Markets.

PARIS, August 22.—The Bourse is firmer. Rentes 70 52.

FRANKFORT, August 22.—Bonds firmer, 75½.

LONDON, August 22.—Sugar to arrive fluctuating; impossible to give exact quotations.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

There is a man in Worcester, Mass., with only one arm, who yet continues to drive a six horses team; and at the Meechan lake in the Adriondacks, one of the guides who has lost a leg can kill and butcher a deer, cut down a tree, and perform several other quite remarkable feats.

In Nevada, a contemplative Digger Indian sat watching a party of base ball players, who seemed to him to be working very hard. Turning to one of them, he asked: "How much you get one day?"

Edward Reynolds, one of the oldest citizens, and father of Major General J. J. Reynolds, commanding the Department of Texas, and W. F. Reynolds, former President of Lafayette and Indianapolis Railroad Company, died last week, at his residence in Lafayette, Indiana, aged ninety-two.

A number of cattle having died suddenly on several Scotch farms, a post mortem examination was made of their carcasses, when their stomachs were found to be full of the dry, burnt grass, entirely undigested. This, combined with the want of water, had evidently caused death.

An arrangement for the protection of sea bathers, comprising a strong rope extending from a pole on the shore to a buoy anchored beyond the bathing ground, has been suggested. To the main rope numbers of smaller ones are attached at equal distances. If it is of any genuine value in saving life it ought to be rigged up at every watering place.

A young man of great gallantry recently rescued a beautiful woman who was in danger of drowning. She stood in high tide shoes, surrounded by forty springs under a watered silk, with a cataract in her eye, a waterfall on the back of her head, and a notion in her brain.

The Dansville *Express* says that the following bill, lead-penciled on a sheet of paper, was taken from off a tree near a trout pond in the vicinity of Springwater:

POSITIVeLey
NO fISHING ALOW
ON THeSe PReMIeS
[Here is inserted the owner's name.]
enny one kecked fising on this Place will bee subjic to a fine of $500 dolers.

Brigham Young has given warning to all swearing youngsters, of whatever age, that they must not come sparking any of his numerous daughters. The relentless saint says:

"I do not wish my daughters to be entangled with one who does not serve God. I would rather see every one of them sealed to Father Perkins here, who is eighty five years of age, than that any of them should be sealed to a wicked man."

The city of Louisville refuses to permit the Louisville and Nashville and the Louisville and Cincinnati railroads to connect in that city, except on the condition that a change shall be made in the gage of the latter from five feet—the uniform Southern gage—to four feet three and a half inches, so as to make a break of gage at Louisville. Otherwise, the city will separate the roads by an interval of a mile and a half.

A writer in a Boston paper declares that there can be no doubt that it is about 5868 years since the birth of Adam, and the earth contains about 1,000,000,000 (one thousand million) people, all of whom are supposed to die every thirty-three years, or three generations of men in every century. But a gentleman who addressed the American Science Association estimates that a thousand generations have passed away since the creation.

General Sheridan has been fined one hundred dollars and costs for ordering one Dunn, sutler and acting postmaster at Fort Leavenworth, to be removed from the military reserve on which the tort stands. The Justice of the Peace before whom Dunn made the complaint held that no citizen could in time of peace be driven off a military reserve by a military force, and that the plaintiff had rights as a postmaster, appointed by a co-ordinate branch of the government, which could not be disregarded. He denied a motion for a new trial, but exceptions to the ruling were made by the counsel for General Sheridan, and the case will go to a higher court.

A LITTLE TOO SLOW.—The Legislature of South Carolina has been in session thirty days, and has passed exactly five bills, making an average of a bill a week. While favoring deliberate legislation, we fear that this is a little too slow. Our sister ought to learn from us. At Harrisburg, by the rapid process of passing bills by their titles, an average is passed of one bill to every minute and a quarter of time occupied. Somewhere between the movements of Pennsylvania and South Carolina there must be a happe medium.—*Philadelphia Telegraph.*

LOUISIANA GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

PROCEEDINGS IN BOTH HOUSES YESTERDAY

SENATE.

Forty-Seventh Day's Session.

SATURDAY, August 22, 1868.

The Senate was called to order by the President at eleven o'clock.

The roll was called; the following members present:

Bacon, Beares, Blackman, Coupland, Darrall, Egan, Foute, François, E. L. Jewell, F. L. Jewell, Kelso, Lewis, O'Hara, Packard, Poindexter, Pollard, Todd, White, Wilcox, Williams, and Wittgenstein—22.

Prayer by the chaplain, Rev. Mr. Turner.

Mr. Ray: I move that the reading of the minutes be dispensed with.

Adopted.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

Mr. Ray, from the Judiciary Committee, reported a substitute for Senate bill No 47, an act granting the right to provisional seizure in other cases than those now allowed by law.

Mr. O'Hara, from the Committee on Claims, reported favorably upon Senate bill No. 105, an act for the relief of Robert J. Caldwell.

Mr. Coupland, from the Committee on Commerce and Manufactures, reported favorably upon Senate bill No. —, an act relative to the office of Inspectors of Hay.

Mr. Todd, from the Special Committee appointed to investigate the disposition of levee bonds, reported progress.

MOTIONS.

Mr. Lewis: I move to reconsider the vote to grant twenty-five days leave of absence to Senator White.

Mr. O'Hara: I call for the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered, resulting:

Yeas: Coupland, Darrel, François, Kelso, Lewis, O'Hara, Packard, Poindexter, Pollard, Whitney, Williams, Wittgenstein—12.

Nays: Bacon, Beares, Blackman, Egan, Foute, E. L. Jewel, F L Jewell, Packard, Ray, Todd, Wilcox—11.

The vote was reconsidered.

Mr. Williams: I move to grant Mr. White twenty-five days leave of absence.

Adopted.

Mr. Bacon: I move to reconsider the vote just taken.

Mr. Ray: I move to lay that motion on the table.

Adopted.

Mr. Smith: I ask for a call of the House.

The call was ordered; the following members answered to their names:

Yeas: Bacon, Beares, Campbell, Darrall, Egan, François, Kelso, Lewis, Monette, O'Hara, Packard, Poindexter, Pollard, Ray, Smith, Thompson, Wilcox, Williams, Wittgenstein—19.

NOTICES OF BILLS.

Mr. Monette: I give notice that on a future day I will introduce a bill relative to the collection of municipal taxes and other debts due the City of New Orleans.

Mr. Todd: I give notice that on a future day I will introduce a bill for the relief of the city of New Orleans, and for the removal of the city Waterworks to Carrollton, Louisiana.

BILLS ACCORDING TO PREVIOUS NOTICE.

By Mr. Wilcox: Senate bill No. 153, an act to encourage the settlement and cultivation of the public lands of this State.

The bill was introduced.

While being read—

Mr. Todd: I move a dispensation of the further reading of the bill.

Adopted.

Mr. Todd: I move that the bill be printed.

Lost.

Mr. Wittgenstein: I move that the rules be suspended for a second reading.

Rules suspended and the bill read.

Mr. Bacon: I move that the bill be referred to the Committees on the Judiciary and Internal Improvements jointly.

Adopted.

By Mr. Bacon: Senate bill No. 152, an act to restore to the heirs of Peter Coyle, deceased, the effects of his succession.

The bill was introduced and read.

Mr. Bacon: I move that the bill be referred to the Judiciary Committee.

Adopted.

The order of the day was taken up.

BILLS ON FIRST READING.

House bill No. 163, an act authorizing the State tax collectors to receive the warrants of members and employes of the General Assembly in payment of State taxes, was read.

Mr. Ray: I move to lay the bill on the table subject to call.

Adopted.

BILLS ON SECOND READING.

Senate bill No. 113, substitute from Judiciary Committee, an act to purchase five hundred copies each of the Civil Code and Code of Practice of the State, edited by James O. Fugua, and one hundred copies of Hennen's Digest, was read.

Mr. Ray: I move that the bill be considered engrossed for a third reading.

Adopted.

On a suspension of the rules the bill was read a third time and adopted finally with its title.

Senate bill No. 39, substitute from Judiciary Committee, an act to amend and reenact articles 3216, 3259, and 3240 of the Civil Code of Louisiana, was read.

Mr. Bacon: I move that this bill be printed and made the special order of the day on Thursday next.

Adopted.

BILLS ON THIRD READING.

House joint resolution No. 107, guaranteeing the right of free speech to all citizens of the State, amended by the Senate and returned from the House with the information that the House adhered to its original bill, was read.

Mr. Bacon: I move that the Senate persist in its amendment, and that a committee of three be appointed from the Senate to confer with a similar committee from the House upon the bill.

Mr. Lewis: I call for the reading of the resolution.

The resolution was read.

Mr. Lewis: I move to lay the whole matter on the table.

Mr. Smith: I call for the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered, resulting:

Yeas: Foute, Lewis, O'Hara, and Packard—4.

Nays: Bacon, Beares, Campbell, Coupland, Darrall, Egan, Kelso, Monette, Poindexter, Pollard, Ray, Smith, Whitney, Wilcox, Williams, Wittgenstein—16.

The motion to lay on the table was lost.

A message from the Governor was received.

Mr. Ray: I move that the Senate adhere to its amendment.

Mr. Smith: I call for the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered, resulting—

Yeas: Bacon, Coupland, Egan, Foute, Futch, Kelso, Packard, Poindexter, Ray, Wilcox, Williams and Wittgenstein—12.

Nays: Beares, Campbell, François, Monette, O'Hara, Pollard, Smith and Whitney—8.

The amendment was adhered to.

Mr. Ray: I move that a Committee of Conference be requested of the House, to confer upon House joint resolution No. 107, and that the Senate appoint three members on said committee, to meet a similar committee of the House.

Adopted.

A message was received from the Governor.

The Senate went into executive session at one o'clock.

The executive session being raised, the Senate adjourned.

In the Senate, on Wednesday, August 19, Mr. Bacon said:

Mr. President: I object to this bill (House bill No. 17, relative to monitions and proceedings at tax sales,) upon general grounds. I am well aware that in this State there is a great deal of property which seldom or never pays taxes, and I regret the fact as much as any gentleman does or can. I should like, if possible, to make our tax laws more efficient and more equitable, so that every dollar of property within the State would be surely compelled to bear its just share of the burden of taxation which has now become so grievous. Therefore, if I could feel an assurance that the passage of this bill would effect this object without imposing other burdens—it will not, upon the whole, be a law of oppression to our people rather than one to lighten and equalize their burdens—I would be among the first members upon this floor to give it a zealous and hearty support. But, sir, I have no feeling in favor of compulsory sales of any kind whatever. On the whole I believe them to be instrumentalities of oppression, which it is difficult to successfully defend upon strictly equitable grounds.

Notwithstanding the provisions in this bill requiring the advertisement of the property previous to its sale, if this bill should become a law it would happen that in a great majority of sales of property for taxes under it, its owners would have no notice of such sale until after the hammer had fallen.

A great majority of the parties whose property would be endangered by this bill are persons who are not even in the habit of getting the newspapers, much less of reading the advertisements they contain. Indeed there are but few newspaper readers who are in the habit of reading their advertisements, unless by some special means their attention is called to them. So much is this the case that under the provisions of this law it would frequently happen that a man's property would be sold for taxes without any previous actual notice or warning to him, although it may have been advertised through all the time prescribed in the bill in the daily paper of which he had been a constant patron.

These notices in the public journals, sir, contemplated by this bill are such notices as are at all likely to reach the persons interested in property liable to be sold for taxation.

Persons should always have actual notice at the earliest possible moment of the institution of any steps likely to result in the forced sale of their property, their homes, and hearth-stones, it may be. And we, as the chosen legislators for the people of this State, will be guilty of an unpardonable breach of duty if we fail to protect the property of each and every one of our constituents with every safeguard necessary to secure it from sacrifice, except it be to meet demands in which there is no elements of injustice, and of which they have had actual and timely notice.

I am opposed, sir, to this bill upon the general grounds already mentioned. I am particularly opposed to it upon the ground that I feel confident that the notice contemplated by this bill would not prove such notice as would generally reach the parties likely to be interested in time to be of any avail to them.

Mr. Ray: Mr. President, I think the honorable Senator is mistaken in his apprehensions of this bill; particularly upon the subject of the publication of the notice for which it provides. This provision of the bill is nothing new, but is identical with a similar provision in our old law, except in the matter of time which it contemplates giving purchasers at tax sales for perfecting their titles. This bill contemplates enabling such purchasers to perfect their titles to property so acquired at the end of two, instead of at the end of the long term of ten years, provided by the old law.

I need not tell you, sir, and I need not tell Senators here upon this floor, that this provision in the old law was most unsatisfactory to purchasers for taxes; so much so, that it has become notorious that it is almost impossible to sell property for taxes, and, therefore, persons disposed to shirk the burdens of taxation have done so, almost with impunity.

It is not just and proper, sir, that every dollar of property within a State, which receives the protection of the State, should bear its just share of the burdens of taxation—that is, pay for the protection it receives?

That it is, the Senator who has just taken his seat admitted. And has not experience conclusively proved that without some such law as the one proposed by this bill—to the whole class of which the Senator informs us he is opposed upon general grounds—to enforce this just burden a large portion of the property in the State will shirk and escape this burden? Is it not true that its owners in many instances, knowing that they can do so with practical impunity, will neglect, and refuse to pay their taxes? Experience has proven that they will. The effect of this bill, if it becomes a law, will be not to cause the sale of the property of honestly disposed persons, or persons disposed to bear their share of the expense of administering their government, but it will be to secure the prompt payment of taxes by a class of men who have heretofore escaped them simply because from the inefficiency of the law they saw they could do so with impunity. The object of this bill is to provide a law which will secure the payment of taxes by all the property—a law that within a reasonable time will enable any person purchasing at tax sale to be sure and get rid of, and get over all of the numerous technicalities which have heretofore proved so grave an obstacle to the sale of property for taxes, and consequently to the collection of taxes. And, sir, the object of this feature of this bill is not to benefit the purchaser at the sale. It is, practically, to do away with the sales, in stimulating and compelling the owners of property to pay their taxes promptly when due.

It is true, sir, that this law may sometimes, in isolated individual cases, work hardship. But in reply to this objection, if it be urged, I ask gentlemen to point to any wise and good law ever enacted by man which has not and which must not do the same.

In regard to the objection to the provision of this bill upon the subject of notice, I will further say it is a most common provision. There is nothing at all new in it. In all our laws relative to judicial sales, to probate sales, to sales by our prize courts, marine courts, and bankrupt courts, etc., etc.

It often happens that the property of a man is sold to pay his debts, and in all such cases we find in the law authorizing it such provisions. Yet this objection has never before been urged.

Another important and, I think, highly commendable feature of this bill, is the feature which authorizes the purchaser at the sale, after the expiration of two years, to call upon the party or parties having adverse interest in the same, or who he may suppose to have such interest, to come forward and prove and substantiate their claim or be forever precluded from so doing. It is of the utmost importance that the title to all property should be fixed and settled, and this is the object and will be the effect of this provision if it become law. This provision will enable every one to know, within a reasonable length of time, whether he has a good title or not. And this, sir, is a most important matter for every property holder to know at the earliest possible moment.

I really think, Mr. President, that this provision, and indeed every provision of this proposed law, will prove good, and I can therefore see no reason why it should be rejected. I am therefore in favor of the bill.

Mr. Todd: Mr. President—I have the single objection to this bill that I urged the other day, and it is this. It will frequently happen, that the owners of property, liable under this bill, to be sold for taxes, will be non-residents of the State, and in many cases non-residents of the United States, and that they may have no agents here to look after their interests. And, therefore, as they could not expect to get any notice of the pendency of proceeding to sell their property here, under the provisions of this bill, their property might be most unjustly sacrificed.

So in the case of infant and orphan heirs, living here and owning property. This bill would provide a means by which the greatest injustice will frequently be done them in the sale of their property without any timely notice. I, therefore, hope this bill may be rejected.

Mr. Poindexter: Mr. President, I am no lawyer, and have no smooth and oily tongue to speak my objections to this bill. But, sir, I believe this is a rich man's bill—a bill intended to provide a means that rich men can more effectually impose upon the poor man; and as I am a poor man, and I am more particularly on this floor the representative of the poor, I want to speak as well as I can for them when I think their interests and rights are in danger. If I should fail to do so, I could never look them in the eyes when I go home to them.

I believe this bill is intended to let the rich men eat up the property of the poor. I am a poor man, and might have my property sold for taxes under this law.

I belong to the class who need to have laws made to help and not to oppress them in their need.

The rich men have little need of laws for their protection. They can take care of themselves very well without. They command capital; capital commands assistance and respect in every emergency.

But assistance and respect for the poor is pretty much done in these days. Unless they are taken care of by law they will fare hard. They will be eaten up by the rich.

Look at this matter Mr. President.

I don't agree with Mr. Todd that under this bill the property of *rich* land owners wholive out of the State, will be the property likely to be sold for taxes. Such men always have friends enough to look after their interests in case of emergency of this kind. It is not necessary they should have appointed agents; for, if almost any man who has money sees the land of a rich man going at a sale of this kind, he will say: "Now the owner of this land is good—he has got money, or, any way, he has this fine plantation and I am sure he is good for losing money if I pay his taxes for him." He will pay them back to me and pay me good interest besides. And so the rich man's tax will always be paid. But Mr. President how is it with the poor man, who has only a little piece of land in God's big world, which may be only worth a hundred dollars, though yet as dear to him, and to his wife and children, as the big plantation of thousands of acres can be to the rich man.

Who will come forward and pay the tax of such poor man? Where in this selfish world is the man who will appoint himself the agent of such a man—a man who has a big family on his hands, and not a dollar in money—not a single horse or mule or cow or even a pig—nothing but his little piece of land, worth, perhaps, only a hundred dollars, yet all that the honest labor of his life, directed by the little talent his God and circumstances have given him, has enabled him to save? Where, I say, is the man who will step forward without being asked—or with being asked—and pay his taxes?

Sir, this kind of men are not very thick in New Orleans or Louisiana. They seem to have petty much all left the country, and I don't believe they will come back if we make this bill a law.

No, sir, there are no men to step forward and pay the poor man's taxes. But there are always plenty to step forward and buy it at this kind of sale. And it always is the poor man's property that these men who make a habit of buying property at this kind of sale like to buy. I will tell you why this is so, sir. It is because the kind of men who do not have, and are not likely to get the means to redeem their property back or fight for it through the law, and so they have good expectation of getting the whole of the poor man's property almost for nothing.

They know it is different if they buy a rich man's property. They know that the chance of big speculation is a great deal the bigest if they buy the poor man's little home.

Therefore, sir, I believe this bill is to build up the rich man, and tear down the poor man.

Again, sir, under this bill, the difficulty of the poor man to raise money to refund the taxes after his land shall be sold, might not be so great, but the other expenses, the penalty, the printer's bill, and God knows what all, outside and beyond the tax, is what will make the shoe pinch.

Under this bill, as I understand it, the printer can charge pretty much whatever his conscience will let him, and the conscience of the printers of this country, you know, sir, will let them do pretty much as they please.

And so with the other expenses outside of the tax. They will make the big end of the poor man's trouble in this kind of cases.

Look at this matter again, sir. Suppose I am a poor man, as I am, sir, and in my parish own ten acres of land, and it is all I have got in the world. Now, though the tax on this little piece of land may be only a few dollars, it will be as big a sum for me to raise as a big sum of taxes is to the rich man. For, sir, I believe it is generally harder for the poor man to raise his taxes than for the rich ones to raise theirs. Well, then, sir, suppose that about the time my few dollars tax becomes due, I get sick, or meet with an accident, so that I cannot possibly raise these few dollars, &c., why, then, as my land is sold for taxes. Now, if this was all—if I could get my land back again after I got well, and out of my pinch, by paying the amount of the tax, I might be able to do so, and it would not be so hard. But, sir, this is not the way this bill intends to have the business work. But while I am getting out of my pinch, there will be the big printer's bill, and all those other expenses outside, which with the penalty, and who knows what all, may count up to the extent of my land tax—to one hundred dollars, may be. What is the end of all this? The end, sir, is that if I cannot raise and pay the hundred dollars, at the day and hour, and under the circumstances I have supposed, God knows I could not, my land will be gone without hope.

Then, Mr. President, laying all jokes aside in regard to this case, I consider that this bill ought not to be made a law, because I consider it would enable the rich men to rob me, and all the poor, of what we subsist upon, which they should not be enabled to do by law, sir. They can get rich enough without our laws to help them.

I consider, sir, that if the poor man who has had the misfortune to have his land sold, can at the end of ten years raise the money to pay the taxes and a fair interest upon it, I consider it would be right for him to do, that he should have his land back. And I ask who would be wronged in such a case? I answer, I am sure nobody would be. But, sir, somebody is wronged if his land—all he has in the world—worth one or two, or three, or four hundred dollars, is taken away from him because, from misfortune, he could not raise a few dollars tax to pay on it at the moment it was due, and kept away from him after he has offered to pay the amount with good interest. Somebody is wronged then.

Now, sir, I don't make any objection to this bill, or say anything about it to hurt the feelings of any man upon the top side of the world. But, sir, it looks to me as though the law intended, by this bill, will prove a bad one, and I want it held until I can see farther—until I can see that I am mistaken. It looks to me as if this bill was intended to enable the rich man, with the Sheriff, to turn me, and other poor men like me, and our families, out of doors, when we have committed no fault that we could properly help.

I therefore think the bill is wrong, and hope it will be voted down.

Mr. Bacon: Mr. President, in addition to the grounds upon which I have already opposed this bill I wish to further urge what to me seems a serious objection, namely, that it proposes no restriction upon the matter of costs that may be made against the property sold.

In cases where the tax might be only two or three dollars, only a mere trifle, there is nothing to prevent the expense of advertising, and other incidental expenses, amounting to twenty-five, fifty, or even a hundred dollars, according to the taste and conscience of the officers and printers who should have the business in hand, so that the sum for which the property would be in actual default for, and for the non-payment of which it would be sold, would bear no proportion to the actual expense that would be imposed upon the owner in redeeming it.

Mr. Todd: Mr. President, I move to postpone further action upon this bill indefinitely.

Not seconded.

Mr. Ray: Mr. President, I am not the author of this bill, but I have had the honor of being the chairman of the committee which drafted it, and I have given it that careful consideration which I thought its importance deserved.

I have come to the conclusion that the passage of this bill is a measure of very great importance as a revenue measure. It will compel persons owning property in the State and living out of it to come forward and pay their taxes. In short, it will compel everybody to pay their taxes, and thus greatly lighten the burdens of all honest taxpayers.

I can not appreciate the force of the objection to the advertising feature of this bill upon which so much stress has been laid.

If you look at the papers throughout the country you will find them about one-half filled up with just such advertisements as this bill contemplates—with advertisements of forced sales of property.

But for many years we have had no law authorizing the sale of property for taxes that has been at all effectual, and the consequence is that a large portion of property in the State has gone free of taxation, and great additional burdens have been imposed upon the balance.

Our taxes are now ten times as high as they were before the war, so that at best, when equally distributed, they will prove a grievous burden to the people. It is therefore most important that some means be adopted of securing a fair distribution of them, and their prompt payment. The old law upon the subject of sales for taxes contained so many informalities and technicalities, and left the title to property purchased at tax sales so uncertain and precarious, that nobody would buy, and therefore every one who saw fit to pay no taxes practically were free of the burden.

This is the reason why our levee bill—a bill of so much importance to the people of this city and State—was rendered ineffectual last fall.

This bill provided for the construction of these levees partially at the expense of the property most benefitted. But, as there was no provision for assuring and securing title to purchasers of said property, when sold to pay its portion of the tax levied for this purpose, its owners took advantage of the defect, and refused to pay the tax. And when the property was offered for sale nobody felt safe in buying, and consequently the law proved ineffectual and we are without levees.

I hold, sir, that property should belong to somebody who will pay taxes. We can not have government without taxation. And if a man living within and enjoying the benefit of a government refuses or neglects to pay his share of taxes upon his property, I hold that it is just and proper that it should be sold to somebody who will, and that there should be such laws upon the subject as will, in some way, secure the prompt payment of these taxes by somebody. And as I believe that such will be the result of this bill if it becomes a law, I hope it will pass.

This bill contemplates giving the owners of property reasonable and ample time and facilities for redeeming the same. They can not reasonably ask for more.

Mr. President, it is not, as has been claimed, the poor men who are liable to have their property sold for taxes. Indeed, it is a very rare thing that such is the case.

Such men are always apt to be at hand, and almost always manage to provide means to pay their taxes in time. But as I have already said, it is generally the rich men, generally non-residents, and men disposed and able to take advantage of legal technicalities who neglect to pay taxes. The object of this bill is to bring them to time.

I think then, sir, that this is not a rich man's bill. It is rather a poor man's bill, because every dollar of tax which is escaped by the property of these rich non-residents has to be paid by the balance of us, and thus our burdens are increased.

I have lived in my parish for ten years and I don't recollect a single instance where a poor man's property has been sold for taxes.

I do hope, Mr. President, that this bill will pass.

The owners of the property will have two years within which to come forward and redeem their property, which is certainly ample time.

Mr. Blackman: Mr. President, I think the bill a good one and hope it will pass.

Mr. Todd: Mr. President, I renew my motion and call for the yeas and nays.

Yeas: 13; nays: 11.

Mr. Blackman: Mr. President, I move to reconsider this vote. (I voted with the majority.) It seems to me that the objections to this bill have not been well taken. The chief objection which has been urged is that under this bill parties will be liable to lose their property without having had any actual notice to defend it. Now, sir, a careful examination of this bill will satisfy you that there is no force in this objection.

This bill provides for the service of a monition by the purchaser upon the owners of the property after the expiration of two years from the sale, before the purchaser can perfect his title against the former owner. Here then is a plain provision requiring actual notice to the owner to come in and defend or redeem his title, and such a notice, the purchaser at tax sale holds subject to all informalities, and all other defects.

The period of tax sales in this State extends back as far as 1848. I have a case now in court which arose as far back as 1848. It is, therefore, seen that this bill proposes to introduce no new principle into our system of jurisprudence; but simply to cure certain grievous defects in the old ones.

A law of this kind is absolutely necessary to protect parties purchasing at tax sales, and without it no such purchases will be made and the proprietors of the property in the State will continue to practically escape taxation, as heretofore, and the State will thus lost will have to be made up by the balance.

This law does not benefit, and is not intended to benefit a rich man any more than a poor man. It simply fixes a time, and provides a means whereby a purchaser at tax sale may perfect his title. And, sir, poor men are likely to be as frequently interested in having such a law as the rich. Poor men are frequently purchasers at tax sales, and they will become more frequently so in proportion as our laws are made to protect such sales, and provide speedy means by which they may be freed from the liability to be upset by the technicalities which have heretofore rendered them such precarious investments.

I therefore think, sir, that upon every ground it will be wise and just for our Legislature to pass this bill, and shall give my voice for it accordingly.

Mr. Bacon: Mr. President, I am still opposed to this bill. I have listened patiently and carefully to all the arguments in its favor, but in them all I have heard nothing which has changed or in the least diminished my objections to this measure. This bill is intended, or if not intended, it is calculated, to enable the rich men of this parish, and of all other parishes, to stand around at tax sales and for a mere song, become the possessors and owners of the property of poor widows and orphans and absentees.

It is customary for usurers to stand around at tax sales, and buy up the property of these classes of persons, and this bill is calculated to increase these inducements, which have heretofore been too great, for them to continue and greatly increase the practice.

Sir, it is because I wish to protect the weak, and the absent, and the married women, and all those who are unable to take care of themselves, that I oppose this bill. These are the classes I wish to take care of by law. Other classes can take care of themselves without law.

I am opposed to this bill upon any and all grounds. And, sir, to dispose of it I move to lay the whole question on the table.

Mr. Coupland: I ask the gentleman to withdraw his motion to lay on the table. It does seem to me that there is a disposition to dispose of this bill in a manner that will be against the best and true interest of the people. I, therefore, wish to say a few words before it is disposed of. Will the Senator withdraw his motion?

Mr. Bacon: Mr. President, I will withdraw my motion if the Senator will promise to renew it.

Mr. Coupland: Mr. President, I will renew the gentleman's motion at the conclusion of my remarks if the Senator insists upon it.

Mr. Bacon: Very well then, sir, I withdraw.

Mr. Coupland: Mr. President, I am greatly surprised at the objections urged against this bill. The chief object of this law is to protect the revenue, of which just now there is certainly the greatest need. It is also to protect those who purchase at tax sales, whether rich or poor, and, sir, they are no less likely to be poor than rich, especially not when this law shall pass and render their investments of this kind safe, and free them from danger of being upset by technicalities for a time almost without limit.

But, sir, this is mainly a measure to protect the interest of the State, to secure the revenue that is justly due the State, and to distribute the burden of taxation equally among all the people according to the property they own; so that there will be no shirking by a part at the expense of the balance.

If I own a piece of property I am compelled to pay taxes upon it or it is sold. And this is right.

If a person who owns property will not pay the taxes upon it, it is proper that some person who will pay the taxes should buy it, and make it bear the burdens which justly belong to it.

Poor men may buy at tax sales as well as rich ones, and it is to the interest of the State that they should, for they are generally the most prompt taxpayers, and therefore the ones least likely to be injured and most likely to be benefitted by this law.

Mr. Poindexter: Mr. President, I have the honor to ask the privilege of making an explanation of my remarks in my humble way. Two learned gentlemen, both lawyers, have favored and upheld this bill with their wise heads and oily tongues, such as do not belong to a poor ignorant man like me. My speech may therefore have little weight in comparison with theirs. But, sir, all this shall not stop me from speaking my honest convictions the best I can; and, sir, my honest convictions are against this bill. They were against it before I heard any arguments for it, and they are against it a good deal more now than they were before.

I honestly believe, sir, under my convictions that if this bill should have the misfortune to become a law that in a few years not one hundred rich gentlemen will own the whole State of Louisiana. I feel that there is a great sin at the bottom of this law. I believe it raises the question whether the people of Louisiana shall live in the State and own property in the State, or whether they shall have their property taken from them without recompense, and be driven into the Gulf of Mexico by about two hundred rich gentlemen who always stand ready to buy their property. I believe, sir, that if ever a bill should be laid on the table this is the one.

I don't mean any harm, Mr. President, to any one, but I must be allowed to answer these gentlemen according to their remarks to me. And, sir, suppose I am the owner of just fifteen hundred dollars worth of property, and it is all I have got in the world. Suppose this property is made up of a little house and fence; a cow and a couple of sheep; and I have not a cent of money in the world, and my taxes are not paid. Suppose, then, I wake up some morning and find my home advertised for sale for taxes. Sir, how am I going to get the money? Why, sir, if the taxes were all, I might possibly sell my sheep, or my cow, and raise the money and save my home. And suppose I had done this, when I go to pay the money over to the gentleman who has charge of the business, says to me, No, sir, that won't quite do. This tax is not exactly the bill you have got to settle and pay, sir. No, sir, it is not. Here is the advertisement for the sale of this land, and the fees of these officers who have had the business in hand, which make the big end of the bill which you must settle before you can have your land back. And so I have got to sell my sheep both for enough to pay this. And I find that the advertisement and these other expenses cost just five times as much as all my sheep, four times as much as my cow, and cow and horse, all together. And so, sir, I have to go and sell the whole thing, and I have got nothing in the world, before I can have my home back. That is just exactly the way this bill will work, sir. And this is what it means, gentlemen, to my conviction, and so, sir, I am going to vote against the whole thing, as I think every man ought to do.

Motion to reconsider laid upon the table by a rising vote of twelve yeas to nine nays.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Forty-Eighth Day's Session.

SATURDAY, August 22, 1868.

The House met pursuant to adjournment.

Speaker Lowell in the chair.

The roll being called, thirty-nine members answered to their names:

There being no quorum, Mr. May, of Orleans, moved for a recess of half an hour.

Carried.

The time having expired the roll was called over, and the following members answered to their names:

Speaker Lowell, Abbott, Alexander, Antoine, Adolphe, Bennett, Buckingham, Belot, Brewster, Barbee, Burrel, Collins, Calhoun, Carr, Cureil, Cuny, Deslonde, Dewees, Dufresne, Demarest, Dupart, Evans, Essard, Fonts, Garstkamp, Hill, Hoaore, Harper, Hutchinson, Holland, Hall, Heidenhain, Isabelle, Kent, Lee, Leroy, Lott, Morris, Mahier, McMillen, McVean, Murrel, Melvin, Mansion, Morey, May, Mathews, Noble, Pearce, Page, Raymond, Reese, Rey, Slaton, Sterrett, Tureaud, Umphreys,

[CONTINUED ON FOURTH PAGE.]