Blind Asylum, Insane Asylum, Military Academy, and State Penitentiary, I am unable to submit them with my message, or to make any recommendations in their behalf. On their receipt at this office, I will lay them, with such suggestions as I may have to offer, before you for your consideration.

H. C. WARMOTH.

SPECIAL ORDER OF THE DAY.

The consideration of the apportionment bill having been made the first special order of the day, it was taken up and read.

Mr. Gartskamp, of Jefferson, moved to amend the first section by striking out all after the word "Orleans," in the twenty-second line, to the word "the," in the twenty-third line, and insert in lieu thereof the words, "known as the Sixth Municipal District, comprising the Twelfth, Thirteenth and Fourteenth Wards."

Mr. Worrall, of Jefferson, moved that the bill be referred to a special committee of three, which was laid on the table upon motion of Mr. Dewees, of De Soto, by a rising vote of 47 yeas to 35 nays.

Mr. Dewees, of De Soto, then moved to lay the amendment of Mr. Gartskamp upon the table, which was carried by a rising vote of 43 yeas to 29 nays.

The question recurring upon the adoption of the first section, Messrs. Gartskamp and Gardner, of Jefferson, demanded the yeas and nays, which resulted as follows:

Yeas: Abell, Adolphe, Bickham, Bowen, Broussard, Brown, Bryan, Buchanan, Cochran, Dewees, Durio, Faulkner, Fontelieu, P. Harper, Kenner, La Saliniere, Matthews, McFarland, Morphy, Morris, Otto, Pond, Ringgold, Tatman, Wheyland, Yorke—26.

Nays: Antoine, Baker, Barker, Barrett, Barrow, Belot, Bentley, Blunt, Brewster, Burch, Butler, Carter, Chachere, Crawford, Darrinsburg, Davis, Demas, Ellis, Floyd, Gaddis, Gardner, Garstkamp, W. Harper, Johnson, Jordan, Kearson, Killen, Kinsella, Laurent, Llambias, H. Lott, J. Lott, Lynch, Mahoney, Marvin, McCarty, Meadows, Moncure, Moore, Murray, Nelson, Ong, Oplatek, Overton, Quinn, Raby, Riley, Sartain, Schumacher, Sauer, Stamps, Stevens, Tureaud, Ullman, Verrett, Wands, Washington, of Assumption, Washington, of Concordia, Waters, E. Williams, H. Williams, Wilson, Worrall, Young—64.

Lost.

Mr. Worrall, of Jefferson, moved the reference of the bill to a special committee of five.

Mr. Yorke, of Carroll, moved to lay the motion to refer upon the table.

Lost.

Mr. Thompson, of St. Tammany, moved to amend by instructing the special committee of five to report a detailed return of the number of inhabitants of the respective parishes and districts throughout the State, which, being accepted by Mr. Worrall, the motion as amended, to refer, was adopted.

The next special order of the day being the consideration of the veto messages of the Governor, they were taken up, and the first in order being that of the Mississippi Valley Levee Company, the following veto was read:

STATE OF LOUISIANA,
Executive Department,
New Orleans, January 2, 1871.

To the Honorable Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives:

I find many and grave objections to the act entitled "an act relative to the Mississippi Valley Levee Company, and providing for the construction, repair and maintenance of certain levees by said company, and for compensation therefor by tolls on lands protected by said levees, and the crops of said lands," which have induced me to withhold my approval. The same is therefore returned to your honorable body.

My first objection is that this bill gives the control of one of the most important public works in the State into the hands of a private company, independent of, and in no wise subject to, the control of the government.

I object to the bill, in the second place, because it takes, without any consideration, the levees already constructed, and valued at no less than seventeen millions of dollars, and gives them to this company, without allowing the State even an interest in the enterprise. Should this plan be adopted, I can not see why the State is not entitled to become a stockholder to the amount of money which her people have already expended upon the work.

Again, there are nearly thirteen millions of acres of land in this State subject to overflow from the Mississippi, Red, Ouachita, Atchafalaya and Black rivers. It is proposed to tax this land, now held or soon to be held, by private individuals, five cents per acre, which would yield a revenue of six hundred and fifty thousand dollars per annum. This sum, of itself, will be, when the levees are once completed, sufficient to keep the whole line in repair. On the lands or real estate situated within the limits of all towns and cities in the overflowed regions, including the city of New Orleans and the surrounding country, an annual tax of one-tenth of one per cent is to be levied. The taxable property being about one hundred and fifty million dollars, the revenue from this source would amount to one hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

But, in addition to all this, the bill proposes to tax the products of the land so subject to overflow. That, on every pound of lint cotton, there shall be assessed and collected a toll of one-fourth of one cent, or one dollar on every four hundred pound bale, reaching in the aggregate between sixty and seventy-five thousand dollars per annum. On every pound of sugar, one-eighth of one cent, or one dollar and twenty-five cents per hogshead, making nearly one hundred thousand dollars per annum. On every gallon of molasses, one-half cent; thus aggregating a total of over a million of dollars per annum on the products of a year, whose yield is equal to the present, and this large revenue must be continually increasing with population and productions. I believe that the company, under the provisions of this act, would, in less than five years, receive a revenue of four or five millions per annum.

A very important objection to this bill is, that it is in direct conflict with our constitution, inasmuch as it wholly ignores the provision requiring that taxation shall be equal and uniform throughout the State. Under this bill all the lands subject to overflow are taxed five cents per acre, whether worth two, five or a hundred dollars. Cotton, sugar and molasses, without regard to quality, are all taxed in the same unequal and unjust manner. The Supreme Court, in session at Monroe, during the last summer, decided that a tax of one dollar per bale on every bale of cotton was unequal and not uniform, and therefore unconstitutional. The offensive manner in which this bill proposes to collect the revenues demands your most careful reconsideration.

The exemption from the operation of the law of any of the principal parishes and corporations within the alluvial districts is certainly unconstitutional and unjust.

In consequence of the multiplicity of matters claiming my immediate attention at the present time, I am unable to state more fully my views of this measure.

H. C. WARMOTH,
Governor of Louisiana.

Mr. Dewees, of De Soto, moved that its further consideration be postponed until next Saturday at twelve o'clock.

Mr. Antoine, of Orleans, moved to lay the motion to postpone on the table.

Carried.

The Speaker then put the question: Will the House, upon a reconsideration, agree to pass the bill, the veto of the Governor to the contrary notwithstanding?

The roll was called, and the vote was announced, as follows:

Yeas: Adolphe, Antoine, Barrett, Belot, Bowen, Broussard, Brown, Buchanan, Bingham, Burch, Butler, Carter, Crawford, Darby, Darinsburg, Davis, Demas, Faulkner, Floyd, Fontelieu, Gaddis, Garstkamp, P. Harper, W. Harper, Head, Huston, Johnson, Kearson, Killen, Kinsella, La Saliniere, H. Lott, J. B. Lott, Lynch, Marie, Marvin, Matthews, McFarland, Meadows, Moore, Morphy, Murray, Oplatek, Otto, Overton, Pond, Quinn, Raby, Riley, Ringgold, Schumacher, Sauer, Stamps, Stevens, Stinson, Tatman, Tounoir, Tureaud, Ullman, Verrett, Wands, Washington, of Concordia, Waters, E. Williams, H. Williams, Wilson, Yorke, Young—76.

Nays: Abell, Baker, Barker, Barrow, Bentley, Brewster, Bryan, Chachere, Cochran, Davidson, Dewees, Ellis, Jordan, Llambias, Moncure, Sartain, Tatman, Thompson, Washington, of Assumption, Wheyland, Worrall—22.

Two-thirds of the members present having voted yea, the bill was passed.

Upon motion of Mr. Sartain, of Carroll, the House was adjourned until to-morrow, at twelve o'clock M.

WILLIAM VIGERS,
Chief Clerk.

DEBATES OF THE SENATE.

TUESDAY, January 10, 1871.

THE SENATORIAL ELECTION.

Mr. Lynch: Under the impression that the first business before the Senate is the election of a United States Senator, and being anxious to get the agony over as soon as possible so that members may be able to turn their attention to other business more important to the State at large, I now move that the Senate go into an election for United States Senator.

Mr. Ray: Before that motion is put, I would like to make a suggestion, which I think will meet the views of all the Senators. It is true the act of Congress of 1866 provides that each house may take a vote separately on the election of a United States Senator, but it does not make it compulsory on them to do so; and the constitution of the State of Louisiana provides that the election shall be by joint ballot. Inasmuch as the act of Congress does not make a separate vote compulsory, and inasmuch as the constitution provides that the election shall be by a joint ballot, I propose that we should not go into an election to-day, and thus, under the rule laid down by the act of Congress, we can meet to-morrow, and go into an election by a joint ballot. There has never been an election for a United States Senator in Louisiana except by joint ballot, and such a course on the present occasion would, in my opinion, be more satisfactory to the people of the State.

Mr. Lynch read the section of the act to show that the provision cited by the gentleman was only inserted to meet extraordinary emergencies.

Mr. Ray withdrew his proposition.

The Senate went into an election for United States Senator.

Mr. Ray: Nominations being in order I rise to put in nomination a Republican, who, if it were left to the people of the State, I am satisfied, would receive nine-tenths of the Republican votes in the State of Louisiana. I nominate Oscar J. Dunn.

The President: I am truly thankful for the honor proposed, but as I believe I have not yet completed my labors or my mission here, I must respectfully decline.

Mr. Campbell nominated General J. R. West.

Mr. Antoine nominated P. B. S. Pinchback.

Mr. Ray nominated P. J. Kennedy.

Mr. O'Hara nominated T. C. Anderson.

Mr. Anderson: I am under great obligations to the gentleman, but as I think there is no chance of my election, I respectfully decline.

Mr. Todd nominated R. W. Futch.

Mr. Futch declined for the same reason as Mr. Anderson.

Mr. O'Hara nominated William F. Blackman, who also declined.

Mr. Thompson: I nominate Thomas Green Davidson, of Livingston parish, who has the reputation of being the old war horse of the Democracy, and I hope that the Democrats at least will give him their support.

Mr. West receiving nineteen votes on the first ballot, was elected by the Senate.

Mr. Blackman: I do not know whether I am in order or not, but we who stand in a minority here would ask some little indulgence. I am informed that the House of Representatives, by a large majority, have just elected General West to the United States Senate. We Democrats in putting in nomination a gentleman of our own party have simply discharged a duty which we thought was incumbent upon us as representatives of Democratic principles. As a matter of course the minority well knew there was no hope of the success of their candidate, and that there could be no possibility of electing a Democrat to the Senate of the United States, but, as I have said, we discharged our duty in the manner that the majority of our party thought we should discharge it. We acted under the instructions of our own party as represented, both in the House and in the Senate; but as the House of Representatives has cast its vote for General West, and as the Democrats here have supported their own man by voting for Mr. Davidson, we now withdraw our candidate, as far as General West is concerned.

The President remarked that the Senate could not properly be informed at this stage of the action of the House.

Mr. Ray: We carry out the views of the gentleman. I move that the Democrats be allowed to change their votes, and to vote for General West.

Mr. Blackman: I did not ask that. I do not want anything of the kind. I propose that the votes should stand as they were given. We simply desire to place on record that we have done what is incumbent on us as a party, and that we make no opposition, factious or otherwise, to the election of Senator West.

Mr. McMillen: I came to my seat this morning determined to utter no word *pro* or *con* in regard to the Senatorial contest, and up to this moment I have retained silence, as I had determined to do; but the remarks of the distinguished Senator from Claiborne seem to me to demand some reply or some consideration. If what he has just uttered from his place in this Senate should be permitted to go abroad as the sentiments of the Senator himself, representing, as he does very ably, the Democratic party—as the sentiment of that side of the house as to this contest, it would be in my judgment wrong—wrong, inasmuch as it would appear to the world in the light of a political or partisan contest. The Democrats may have cast their votes for Mr. Davidson because they believed him to be the embodiment of Democratic principles, but I deny that any such motive prompted any other member to vote against him. I deny that the Republican party had a candidate for the United States Senate upon whom the party were united and undivided, and I deny, in my seat here, that General J. R. West has been elected in this Assembly as the Republican candidate from this State. He is not even known as a Republican. Outside the limits of New Orleans, he is not known to ten men in the State, either as a Republican, or in any other capacity; and it is absurd to let the impression go abroad that General West has been elected as a Republican. I cast my individual vote for a Republican, but for a man known throughout the length and breadth of this State as a Republican; a man who has been in the front rank of Republicans, and whose principles are known and read of all men. The point which I desire to make clear is, that this has not been a partisan contest, and that if the Democrats voted for their candidate because he was a Democrat, it does not follow that those who voted for other candidates were actuated by similar party motives. Would to God they had been. Would that those motives which prompt men to be true to their party obligations had been the only ones brought into the contest, and that members on this floor had been compelled or determined to vote alone from motives of partisanship. I do not believe that party has had any influence worthy to be mentioned in determining the majority of votes which have been cast for General J. R. West as the next United States Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. Sypher said he was very glad there was a gentleman on the floor who could look into the hearts of members and read their motives.

Mr. McMillen disclaimed any such pretension.

Mr. Pinchback: Although I do not feel particularly sore on this matter, I still desire to say a word or two. I never entered this contest with a view of succeeding in it. I knew I could not, and I so told my friends. But I wanted to establish one fact; I wanted to show by actual proof that the cry raised by a good many men, of equality before the law and exact justice to all men, was but a chimera, a myth. Now we have put this thing to a practical test, and we find men supposed to represent a large portion, I may say the largest portion, of the Republican party, putting in nomination, not the candidate of the majority, but one who represents a very small minority of the Republican party. We said, when we started, that we were in favor of recognizing the political rights of all men. I did not believe that principle would be carried out. I believed, and I so stated, that they would be willing to see the colored man hold unimportant places, but I did not believe, when it came to a square vote, that they would support him for important offices. If I had any doubt on the subject, the contest to-day has removed those doubts. It must be recorded for future use, that in the vote given to-day on this important question, while the Senators of my own race, almost to a man, cast their votes for me, with one exception, no other Republican did. I have to speak personally, because I am, unfortunately, the instrument by which this lesson has been taught the people of Louisiana. I am the goat drawn up to the altar to be sacrificed.

A Senator: Misplaced confidence.

Mr. Pinchback: Well may the gentleman say "misplaced confidence," because those who sent him here put their confidence in him and he has abused and betrayed it. I want the facts put on record, because when this gentleman (General West) goes to Washington and says he represents the Republican party of this State, I shall be prepared to prove by this record that he is not the representative of the Republicans of Louisiana.

Mr. McMillen: And do it, too.

Mr. Pinchback: Look at the chicanery after I had forty odd votes; they went round to member after member, "Change your vote, change your vote," in order that it might not go to the world that they received no colored vote. They were pledged and the Republican party was pledged to equal rights, and now they come in here to-day to vote against all those pledges. I say again, I am not sore at all. There is not a Senator that has spoken to me personally but to whom I have expressed the same opinions that I now express. I told them I had not the ghost of a chance, and I knew it. But I did expect to be able to use such influence as I had so as to secure a competent, honest, worthy man for that high position. I was in hopes that I could at least effect so much. I even made representations to the Democratic party. I told them if you stand solid and united against this gentleman, I will assure you he will never be elected, because without a combination on the part of the Democrats there could be no election, for the colored vote was pledged to a man to stand firm. Not that we expected to elect one of our own race, because we did not think this was possible, but we did hope to elect a man worthy to fill that seat. I am not prepared to say that General West is not worthy, but I am prepared to say he is not the best man to represent our interests in the Senate of the United States. He may be, and I hope he will be, all his friends claim him to be, but that is not the fight on which we entered.

Mr. Fish: There seems to be a charge, an implied charge, on the part of the gentleman who has just sat down, that those of the Republican party who voted against him did so on account of his color. That charge I wish to repudiate on my own behalf, and I believe on behalf of every Republican Senator who did not vote for the gentleman. It has been my observation, Mr. President, that whenever distinction has been made between white and black, the distinction has been drawn by those of the gentleman's own color. The white men have shown their disregard of color by voting both ways. It is in evidence this day that some of the white Republicans voted for Mr. Pinchback, although he knew he had no chance of election. I am not prepared to say, Mr. President, that if your Excellency had come forward, or if the gentleman himself had had any chance, which he knew he had not, that I might not have voted for one or the other of you; but there being only two candidates in the field that had any chance of election, I thought it incumbent to vote as I did, because I thought General West was the best man before the Senate who had any chance of election.

Mr. Ragan stated that it was his intention to have voted for Mr. Pinchback. He only voted for General West because of pressing instructions from his constituents to do so.

DEBATES OF THE HOUSE.

WEDNESDAY, January 11, 1871.

The House met promptly at 12 M., Speaker Carr in the chair.

Prayer by the Chaplain.

Roll called; one hundred members present.

On motion of Mr. Davidson, of Livingston, the further reading of the journal was dispensed with.

The appearance of the Lieutenant Governor and the Senate at the bar of the House was then announced by the Doorkeeper.

JOINT SESSION.

Lieutenant Governor O. J. Dunn presiding.

Senate roll called; thirty-five Senators present.

House roll called; one hundred members present.

The journals of the Senate and House were then read.

Senator Lynch suggested that the word "ballot" in the House journal should be "vote."

Senator Pinchback: I also wish to call attention to the fact that, according to information which I have received, the House journal is incorrect. I ask for information, if a Senator has a right to call the attention of the House to the fact. It is a notorious fact that certain votes were cast, and after the roll was called members changed their votes. The minutes of either house are supposed to be a reflex of what is done; whether right or wrong it should be on the journal, and in such an important matter as the present the journal should be made properly.

Lieutenant Governor O. J. Dunn: I would suggest that each house is responsible for its own journal. The Senate has no right to correct the House journal. This is not the proper place. The result of the examination of the two journals shows that J. R. West received in the Senate nineteen votes and in the House sixty-eight, making a total of eighty-seven votes. If I hear no objection it becomes my duty to declare in accordance.

Senator Antoine: I most decidedly object. I must admit that I am not conversant with the proceedings of a joint session. If there is any rule that would warrant you in vacating the chair to permit the Speaker of the House to correct his journal, I should stop my opposition. I understood that there was a solid vote for Pinchback, but that the journal only shows twenty, where there should have been thirty-two. I must say that there is one Democratic member in this House who arose from his seat and changed his vote and voted for Pinchback. That gentleman should be recognized from pure interest, pure motive.

Senator Ingraham understood that the motion was not correct, and suggested the retirement of the Senate until the journal of the House had been adopted by the House.

Mr. Brewster, of Ouachita: I arise to a point of order. Can the Senate adjourn at any moment, without the consent of the joint session?

Lieutenant Governor O. J. Dunn: The Senate can retire at their own discretion.

Mr. Davidson, of Livingston, explained that yesterday before the result had been declared he changed his vote.

Senator McMillen: As unanimity is the order of the day, and as the hour seems to have arrived when the lion shall lie down with the lamb, I would like to have the privilege of changing my vote. I am satisfied with the statement of my venerable friend on the right that the journal is correct.

Lieutenant Governor O. J. Dunn: I now declare in the name of the Senate and House of Representatives in joint session convened, that J. R. West has received a majority of the votes of both Houses, and is, therefore, declared our jointly elected Senator for the next six years.

The Senate then retired and the House resumed its session.

Speaker Carr in the chair.

Several standing committees were announced.

The Speaker: The Chair will now lay before the House the annual message of the Governor, which the Clerk will read.

After the reading of a portion of the message—

Mr. Matthews, of Tensas, moved that the further reading be dispensed with, and that one thousand copies be printed for the House.

Carried by a vote of fifty-four to twenty-one.

The special order of the day being the consideration of an act to apportion the representation in the General Assembly among the several parishes and representative districts, and to fix the senatorial districts throughout the State and the representative districts in the parish of Orleans, was then called up.

The first section being read—

Mr. Garstkamp, of Jefferson, offered an amendment to strike out from the word "Orleans," in the twenty-second line, to the word "the," in the twenty-third line, and after the word "Orleans," in the twenty-second line, to insert, "known as the Sixth Municipal District, comprising the Twelfth, Thirteenth and Fourteenth Wards," and remarked as follows: As it is now, it says the Twelth Representative District shall comprise that portion of the city of New Orleans formerly known as Jefferson City. That only comprises the Twelfth and Thirteenth Wards. In this is no mention of the Fourteenth Ward. It is left out of the bill altogether. It was formerly known as Burtheville, and it is not mentioned here. By this bill the Fourteenth Ward would have no representation.

Mr. Dewees, of De Soto: The Fourteenth Ward is included in the Twelfth.

Mr. Bowen, of Orleans: I desire to say that the term Twelfth Representative District employed in the bill embraces the Twelfth, Thirteenth and Fourteenth Wards. The Fourteenth Ward is not left out. I hold in my hands the population of these three wards, amounting to 10,860, and the Fourteenth Ward is included in that. The gentleman is mistaken entirely about the Fourteenth Ward being left out.

Mr. Worrall, of Jefferson: I think, sir, that the difficulty in this bill arises principally from the use of the term "formerly known as Jefferson City." They can not be aware of the fact that when annexation took place there were two other places, nay three, one known as Bloomington and one as Greenville. They were all included when that portion known as Jefferson City took place. I move that the bill be referred to a special committee of five for correction.

Mr. Bowen, of Orleans, offered an amendment that the bill be referred back to the original committee, but afterward withdrew his amendment.

Mr. Dewees, of De Soto, moved that the motion to refer to a special committee be laid on the table. Carried—yeas 47, nays 35.

The Speaker: The question before the House is as to the adoption of the first section of the bill.

Mr. Worrall, of Jefferson: Do I understand that the previous question is called for?

The Speaker: The question before the House is as to the adoption of the first section.

On being put to vote the House refused to adopt the first section by a vote of 63 to 26.

Mr. Worrall, of Jefferson: I move that the first section be referred to a special committee of five. It will save the House a great deal of trouble.

Mr. Bowen, of Orleans: I shall be pleased to favor the motion of the gentleman from Jefferson. The only mistake that has occurred in the whole bill—and I have examined it very carefully, indeed—has been simply in the verbiage of the Representatives of the twelve representative districts. The entire Sixth District has been properly represented, so far as representation is concerned, and they have had given to them credit for the whole amount of population. The Fourteenth Ward has been simply left out in the verbiage. Let us have it referred to a committee, simply to change the verbiage.

Mr. Stevens, of Jackson: I am in favor of referring the bill to a committee. I do not wish to have the rights of the people destroyed by legislation, and I see no necessity for passing a bill that will be vetoed.

The main question was then put, and the bill referred to a special committee.

The Speaker: The next in order is the consideration of the veto message of the Governor on the bill to incorporate the Mississippi Valley Levee Company.

Mr. Gartskamp, of Jefferson moved that the message be read.

Mr. Dewees, of De Soto, moved its postponement until one o'clock on Saturday.

Mr. Antoine, of Orleans, moved to lay the motion of postponement on the table, and then withdrew his motion.

On being put to vote, it was decided that the message should be read, which was accordingly done.

The Speaker: The question before the House is, will the House, upon reconsideration, agree to pass the bill, the veto of the Governor notwithstanding?

Mr. Worrall, of Jefferson: Like his Excellency, I have many grave objections to this bill. I am pleased to see that the matter is brought fairly and squarely before the House, and I hope the House will bear patiently with me, as I shall not attempt to violate the rules of the House in point of time. I trust they will bear with me within the rules, while I present for their grave consideration my objections. And the first, sir, if I may be allowed, and I think I may, to say that the party to which I belong is pledged to economy, and I trust that when the members of this House go back to their constituents, they will not pale to look them in the face, and say they did their whole duty. I, for one, do not want to. We have suffered, perhaps, more from this cause than from anything else. We have been charged, whether falsely or correctly, as being a corrupt pack; as voting, without consideration, the money of the people of this State into the hands and pockets of individuals and corporations. I fear, sir, that if we vote for this bill, our constituents, when they receive us individually, will point to us and say, "Thou art the man." We have expended, as I understand it, from nine to ten millions of dollars, at least, in building and improving the levees of this State, and the first unblushing, impudent requirement in this bill is, that we shall give all the money to the incorporators of this monopoly. Now, sir, I am not here to vote, on behalf of the citizens of Jefferson, from nine to thirteen millions of dollars into the hands of a private firm.

My second objection to the bill is that it is giving an important public work into the hands of a private corporation, and the question to be considered in this bill is this: Is the State of Louisiana competent to attend to her own affairs, build her own levees, collect her own taxes or appoint her own officers? I think, sir, she is. The men who vote for this bill, in my humble opinion, say that she is not. I should not be surprised, sir, if some company should come to us with a bill providing that the Legislature shall vote into the hands of some private corporation the entire control of the legislation of this State. Why not do so? Where is the difference? If the public works are to be given over to private enterprise, why not this Legislature? I think we had better do so at once, and go home. I think, sir, that the State has proved, in the midst of adverse circumstances, its ability to do very much toward attending to its internal improvements. When the State is not able to do this, I propose to go into bankruptcy and turn the whole thing back into the hands of the parent government.

Another objection is this: All the States of the Mississippi valley are interested in this matter, every one of them, and I believe, sir, that the parent government, as she sees us coming out of the mire and difficulties in which we have been so long involved, will lend a helping hand in this great work. Louisiana, therefore, and the planters of Louisiana, will be called upon to pay the excessive taxes that are demanded by this bill, in order to do a work that properly belongs to the whole of the States in the Mississippi valley. Let it not be understood that votes have been cast simply for a few shares in this company.

Mr. Garstkamp, of Jefferson: I wish to know if the gentleman intends to say that any member of this House has voted for shares of stock. It is an imputation on this body which should not be submitted to.

Mr. Worrall: I take the remark back, and will bring it before the House in another shape. Another thing, Mr Speaker, I have very carefully studied this bill and the subject in connection with it, and I have every reason to believe that the estimate of his Excellency the Governor is not overstated. I firmly and conscientiously believe that the tax that will be asked for by these gentlemen, members of this company, will be tantamount to an average of five millions of dollars per annum. I am credibly informed by a gentleman who has charge of the public works, that the whole levee system can be put into excellent repair for a sum varying from ten to twenty millions of dollars. (In reply to a question proposed by Mr. Yorke, of Carroll, Mr. Worrall stated that he had nothing to do with the Board of Public Works.) I repeat that from estimates given me by a gentleman in whose ability I have undoubted confidence, I believe that the whole levee system can be put in perfect repair at a cost not exceeding twenty millions of dollars. I ask, therefore, if the gentlemen of this House are prepared to vote away the whole of the money of the people, whose interests they profess to protect, to this company. If four years can not complete the levees, why then let us take ten, fifteen, twenty or twenty-five to do this work. What does this bill propose to do? It proposes to give a meagre guarantee of a paltry million of dollars where tens of millions are at stake, and these gentlemen come here and unblushingly ask the members of this House to vote for such a measure as this. I say, sir, that I will never vote for the measure.

Another thing is this: they modestly ask that an individual shall be appointed as agent of the general government at Washington to come down here to assist them in dividing the boundaries of this levee system. What guarantee have we that the general government will come into our little scheme down here? To appoint this commissioner would require a special enactment. Let us suppose such a law was made. What then? This gentleman comes as an agent of the parent government, we are told. Who is to employ this agent? The company propose to pay his expenses. They are, therefore, the employers of this individual, and as he looks to them for his pay, he will naturally seek to please his masters.

Another thing, sir: I think this bill violates the provisions of the constitution. Let us be fair in these things. Will any gentleman get up on this floor and say that to have so much charged on this, so much on that, so much for each bale of cotton, each barrel of molasses, each hogshead of sugar, and say that it is not taxes? I call it taxes, and I say that if this tax is put upon the people of those parts that are to be covered by this levee system, the taxation immediately becomes unequal. It will become so burdensome that the whole of this land, not now under cultivation, will fall into the hands of this corporation. I can not see how it can be otherwise; the taxes will eat them up. Our farmers, our planters will be obliged to give up the charge of their lands. I am in favor of the improvement of the land, but I do not want to see it taken out of the hands of the proper persons and gobbled up by others.

I want to ask another question in reference to this bill. Who are the gentlemen that ask for these great things at our hands? As far as I know, they are not Republicans, and I want that thing to be distinctly understood. Do not misunderstand me; I do not want them to be Republicans, that they may have the stealings. I wish no man to steal. Here are the gentlemen, John G. Gaines, Samuel Smith, J. H. Oglesby, ex-Governor Hebert. These are among the names of the men who ask for these great things—men who ought to know better, men who belong to the very party that has been holding up the Republican people in this State, and especially its Legislature, to the contempt of this whole nation. And what have been the charges they have made against us? Simply this, that we are corrupt.

(The honorable gentleman was here called to order by Mr. Sartain, of Carroll, who, however, gave no grounds for his call.)

There is another thing, gentlemen, with reference to this bill, that I object to. I would like to have had further consideration of it. The new members, who have never seen this bill before to-day, should not vote for any bill until they have had an opportunity of examining its details.

Mr. Stamps, of Jefferson, called attention to the rule of the House limiting each speaker to half an hour.

The Speaker: I have been timing the honorable gentleman. He has thirteen minutes yet.

Mr. Worrall: I wish to ask whether the time of interruption is to be counted in. This bill has been placed before the House only since we came in session this morning. It is an insult to the new members of this House to be asked to vote upon a bill the conditions of which they have not had an opportunity to read. We have been in session now only two hours, and if a gentleman can read this bill and make up his mind in that time, all I have to say is that he very easily makes up his mind. I move the postponement of the consideration of this bill until to-morrow at two o'clock.

Mr. Sartain, of Carroll: I second the move.

Mr. Davidson, of Livingston: Like the previous speaker, I consider the bill offensive. This is an important bill, and should not be hurriedly dealt with. It proposes to put the levees of the State of Louisiana into the hands of a private company. The great prosperity of the State is directly concerned in these levees. They have cost millions of dollars to the Legislature, and it is proposed gravely by the members of this House to take the entire control of this important branch of the public works out of the hands of the Governor. These gentlemen are exceedingly anxious to force this measure upon the public without any respect for the interests of the minority. If this bill should be postponed—and I am in favor of postponing it—we will have an opportunity of sifting and deciding for ourselves whether the Governor has not acted wisely in vetoing a bill which proposes to take this important public work out of the hands of the State and surrender the already vast sum of seventeen millions of dollars expended by the State to enable them to make a dividend and fund for their own benefit. It is a well settled question, Mr. Speaker, that when you vest in this company the control of our levees, you will lose all control of them, and if they do not that which they propose to do, and an overflow comes, what will become of them? They will come wringing their hands and beseeching the Legislature to come to their relief. From the effects of this hasty and destructive legislation we are now suffering. Your honorable Republican Legislature passed this bill last session, and are now trying to get clear of it, and if the Governor ever did anything to be styled most excellent Governor, I say go and do likewise again, and still be excellent Governor, in all cases where such monstrosities as this are proposed. The bill is unconstitutional, for the reason that the people residing on these lands are no longer taxed for the benefit of the State of Louisiana, no longer to relieve us from the burdens of government, but to put money in the pockets of these stockholders that they may declare dividends. Is not this a monstrosity? You tax the lands of the State of Louisiana that have been protected at a cost of seventeen millions, for the benefit of this company. Is this the constitution? That provision which you have sworn to support, that says taxes shall be equal. I have to pay taxes, and my neighbor on the hill is not to be taxed a dollar. If the State had not paid out any money, these gentlemen might come here with some degree of propriety and ask for this, but when we have already expended the large sum of seventeen millions, it is a manifest injustice to transfer the State interest to the hands of these irresponsible parties. I know, sir, it is very unpopular for the Governor to stretch out his hand and try to save the people from the hands of these men.

Mr. Yorke, of Carroll: I desire, sir, as chairman of the Committee on Lands and Levees of the last session, to say to those gentlemen who have not heard the bill, that it passed both the House and Senate by a large majority, and the people of the whole West have indorsed it. It is not a new thing, nor can it be considered as something fearful—an enormity. The general principles of the bill are correct—those that are not can be changed. I shall vote to pass this bill over the veto of the Governor.

Mr. Murray, of Orleans: I have listened to the gentleman. I have been quite wise on the subject. I must say that it is very sensible. It is high time for the Southern men to look for themselves. I am a Southern man. I respect the Western States, the Northern and the Eastern, but I do not believe in investing all the power, wealth and riches of this country in the hands of men who are foreign. (Laughter).

Mr. Burch, of East Baton Rouge: I can not vote for the postponement. The bill was passed last year, by a very handsome vote. It has been brought to our notice, and we agreed to postpone it until to-day. We have no time to fritter away in postponing from day to day such an important bill as this. It was passed by a Republican Legislature, and if the gentleman will only go back as far as Monday's *Times*, he will find a handsome Democratic argument in favor of passing it. I have no charge to make against the gentlemen who oppose this bill. It is said that figures will not lie. The plain fact is that figures do lie, especially when they get into committees. We have been told that the main object is to put a great sum of money into the pocket of this company, and the next cry is that the gentlemen in this corporation are not Republicans. We have nothing to do with that. We are here to legislate for the best interests of the State, and if the Republican Legislature pass the bill, and the Democratic press say it is a good one, I do not see that we are doing any harm if we pass any such bill. If they encourage us to pass such a bill, we have a right to do it. I believe it is unnecessary to postpone it any further. It it comes up to-morrow it will be postponed until we finally exhaust the better part of this session on this bill.

I would call attention to another point which it is not necessary to prolong this any further. If the gentleman will compare the veto message with the figures on the Mississippi levee in Monday's *Times*, he will find out by actual figures, instead of the large sum which would be received as set down, it would only amount to some seven hundred thousand dollars. Another point: This corporation is in the hands of parties who offer as bonds the sum of one million dollars. There is ample security for them to attend to their duty. There is nothing to fear from them so far as this is concerned. I do not doubt but that the Governor sent in the veto from the best of motives, and that he wished to subserve the best interests of the whole State. I believe that if this statement is correct the Governor himself might say that in the multiplicity of his affairs he had not examined it as closely as he might have done.

We want to get to some other business, and I shall vote against any opposition to this bill.

Mr. Carter, of Cameron, having obtained permission of the Speaker to discuss the merits of the question, said, in substance: The location and construction of the levees are to be under the control of the State and Federal governments, by the appointment of an engineer. If the parties fail to carry out their contract, we are authorized to have the levees constructed at their expense. They are required to deposit one million to cover damages, and, under the general provisions of the law, they will forfeit their franchise. You will take the work out of the hands of the public, and it is a question whether you use a corporation with a million of security to do the work that is now done by a Board of Public Works that gives $50,000 as security for personal integrity alone and not for damages. Can any one say that it is a disadvantage to the State to use our power to protect the people? I make a point on the question whether it is better to turn these levees over to a Board of Public Works or to private hands. Have not all public enterprises, all public works, improved by being in private hands? Is it not a matter of history that such has been the case? All the great enterprises of this world, and among them I may mention the Mont Cenis Tunnel, the Suez Canal, and the Union Pacific Railroad, show this.

Upon the statement of General Humphries, it will take from ten to fifteen millions to perfect the levee system, and this company asks a tax that amounts to $750,000. They propose to issue their bonds and endeavor to have them indorsed by the general government. The tax assumed is less than the current expenses. Upon the question of unconstitutionality I will not argue. The bill was framed by a lawyer who stood head and shoulders above any of us, and upon this bill he stakes his reputation. The discriminating tax is not unconstitutional. You have simply a million of dollars in your hands. If the company is willing to stake their million and run the risk, the State has no reason to complain. I have as good an opinion of his Excellency as anybody, but upon a question of this sort I prefer my own judgment to his.

Mr. Worrall, of Jefferson, asked if any member could vote under rule fifteen of the House if he held shares in the stock of this company.

The question as to the passage of the bill over the Governor's veto being put, it resulted in the passage of the bill by a vote of seventy-six yeas to twenty-two nays.

On motion of Mr. Sartain, of Carroll, the House adjourned at 2:45 P. M. until 12 M. to-morrow.

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