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DEBATES OF THE HOUSE.

THURSDAY, February 16, 1871.

The House met promptly at twelve.
Speaker Carter in the chair.
Ninety-two members present.
Prayer by the Chaplain.

On House bill No. 254, to protect laborers from being forced to work on the public roads and levees in this State, and providing a punishment for the violation of the same—

Mr. Brewster, of Ouachita, stated the explanation of the bill: It is well known throughout the country that the police juries enact laws forcing poor men to work from six to fifteen days in each year without any pay whatever, and the owners of plantations where property is benefited by having good roads and bridges, and who are wealthy and happen to be over forty-five years of age, have no road tax to pay. I ask you if it is just for these men to spend two weeks out of twelve months without receiving any pay, while wealthy men escape taxation? This bill provides that no police jury shall have the power to call out men to work on the roads and receive no pay, and I would respectfully advocate its passage.

The bill was finally passed by a vote of 58 yeas to 27 nays.

On House bill No. 259, an act of making the justices of the peace in the several parishes of the State (the parishes of Orleans and Jefferson excepted) ex officio members of the police jury in their respective parishes, and to repeal sections 2727, 2728, 2729, 2730, and 2731 of the Revised Statutes of the State of Louisiana, the introducer of the bill—

Mr. Bentley, of St. Mary: As I offered this bill, I would like to say a few words upon it, before it comes before the House. The Governor in his last message has recommended a change to be made in the police jury system of this State—the present one being cumbrous and inoperative; but I cannot agree with the suggestion of the Governor, that a commission be appointed in each parish—I think the police jury is the legislature of the parish, and I want the present representative system kept up. I know there are a sufficient number of intelligent men in each parish to maintain police juries. I merely want to offer this bill to remove a number of useless officials, and make the present officers respected. At present the office of Justice of the Peace is considered unimportant. They are elected in the different wards of a parish, and are gentlemen who are acquainted with the interests of their respective wards, and I think it would be of considerable advantage to pass this bill. My attention has been called to a similar law in operation in Texas, which I understood has worked well. I hope the motion to postpone will not prevail, and ask to have the bill referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

After the notice of several bills had been given, the House, on motion of Mr. Kenner, of Orleans, adjourned until seven o'clock this evening.

Evening Session.

THURSDAY, February 16, 1871.

The House met promptly at seven.
Speaker Carter in the chair.
Seventy-nine members present.

The Speaker explained to the House that he had been unwell and would call Mr. Matthews, of Tensas, to the chair.

House bill No. 132, an act to provide for the deepening of the water on the bar existing at Pass-a-l'Outre, at the mouth of the river Mississippi, to remove impediments to the navigation of said bar, and to provide for the issuance of bonds of the State of Louisiana in payment therefor, and to create a revenue to meet the payment of said bonds and the interest thereon, being on its final passage, the yeas and nays having been called—

Mr. Brewster, of Ouachita: Before the question is put I wish to say a word or two. I do not expect to offer any material opposition to its passage, but I do object to casting my vote to tax the people of Louisiana for dredging out the mouth of the Mississippi river, when it benefits all the States of the Mississippi Valley. The United States have it on hand, and money has been appropriated for the work, which is progressing rapidly. I am opposed to taxing the people of Louisiana to benefit—

Mr. Brown, of Ascension: I will explain this thing to the gentleman.

Mr. Ringgold, of Orleans: The yeas and nays have been called.

The roll having been called, the bill was declared passed by a vote of 67 yeas to 21 nays, the title adopted, and sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Senate bill No. 16, providing for the establishment of Red River parish, was finally passed, and sent to the Senate for concurrence without discussion.

Mr. Carr, of De Soto, had a petition of the citizens of the parish in favor of the bill, to exhibit to the House, but had no chance to offer it.

Mr. Waters, of Orleans, moved a reconsideration of the vote by which House bill No. 70 was tabled. Carried, 35 yeas to 32 nays.

Mr. Harper, of St. Charles, rose to a point of order, and said: The course which we have taken is in violation of the rules of the House and of the constitution. We have no right to reconsider the vote to indefinitely postpone any bill. If you attempt to put this bill through, it will be in violation of the constitution, which requires that every bill shall be read three several times, as this is now a new bill.

The Speaker, pro tem: The gentleman rose to a point of order.

Mr. Harper, of St. Charles: I want my point on record, so that it shall not be stifled.

The Speaker pro tem: The Chair would state that that matter is disposed of. The motion before the House is the motion of the gentleman from Orleans.

Mr. Carr, of De Soto: By what rules are you governed?

The Speaker pro tem: By the rules of the House.

Mr. Carr: Then I want you to get rule twenty-six—

"When a motion has been once made and carried in the affirmative or negative, it shall be in order for any member of the majority to move for a reconsideration thereof, provided it is made on the same day or the next siting day, before the order of the day is taken up."

You may pass this bill, the Senate may pass it, but while I remain upon this floor I shall enter my protest, and shall demand that the Speaker of this House shall not sign that bill.

The Speaker pro tem: The gentleman will come to order.

Mr. Harper, of St. Charles: I want to put my point of order on record: When a question has been postponed indefinitely, the same shall not be acted upon again during the session; and that bill being out of the possession of the House it becomes a new bill, and requires three several readings. You have no right whatever to receive that bill again, except by the introduction of another bill of similar import.

Mr. Brewster, of Ouachita: I rise to a point of order: That any gentleman that is a member on this floor that makes a direct attack on the chairman or Speaker of this House—

Mr. Harper, of St. Charles: I have made no direct attack. I simply raise the question and ask the Speaker to decide. I protest against any gentleman getting up here and telling me what I shall do. If I have any rights—

Mr. Brewster, of Ouachita: I would ask the chairman to decide whether my point of order is well taken.

Mr. Carr, of De Soto: I rise to a point of order. I am a member of this House—

The Speaker pro tem: The gentleman from De Soto will come to order. The point of order raised by the gentleman from Ouachita is well taken.

Mr. Harper, of St. Charles: I respectfully ask for the same, for a decision on my point of order.

Mr. Carr, of De Soto: I rise to a point of order. My point of order is this: I, sir, do not desire to see this House of Representatives place themselves in such an awkward position as is contemplated by several of the members. I am proud of the good name of this House, and do not want to see the members place themselves in a false position. I call the attention of the Chair, and the House, to rule twenty-six of the House, which reads as follows:

[The rule is quoted above.—REPORTER.]

According to rule thirty, the order of the day is fixed at one o'clock. To-day it was postponed. Even though it had not been so, this motion can not be entertained.

The Speaker pro tem: The Chair decides that point of order well taken.

Mr. Carr, of DeSoto: That's all right.

The House resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. Ullman, of Orleans, in the chair.

Several bills were considered with but little debate.

On House bill No. 8, providing for the appropriation of $28,000 for the relief of the Police Jury of the parish of Jefferson—

Mr. Worrall, of Jefferson: I would explain to the House that this is a bill brought by the Police Jury of the parish of Jefferson under the following circumstances: In 1867 this jury was ordered by the military authorities to build certain levees. After building them they presented their bill to the Board of Public Works, who approved and passed favorably upon the same, but before settlement could be made the board became defunct, and the police jury therefore were compelled to pay the contracts which had been entered into for the building of these levees. They thereupon concluded to fall back upon another law, which they supposed existed, and entered suit against the planters in the improved district in the Second District Court, which rendered judgment against the plaintiff, on the ground that the bill ordering the planter to pay had been abolished, and, at the same time, rendered judgment that the suit was against the State. It was carried to the Supreme Court, and by it was also decided to be a claim against the State, and not against private parties. Certainly no more just and equitable claim ever came before this body. The bill being against the State, the State is asked to pay it, and I have no doubt this explanation will be satisfactory to the House.

On motion of Mr. Kenner, of Orleans, the bill was indefinitely postponed.

On House bill No. 74, an act for the relief of E. North Cullom, of the parish of Avoyelles, and for other purposes—

Mr. H. Lott, of Rapides: I think this gentleman performed his duty faithfully and impartially to both white and colored people. He is an honest and just judge, and is entitled to the relief asked for, and therefore I would move to recommend its passage.

On House bill No. 13, an act for the relief of J. B. McLin, of the parish of Orleans, there was discussion as to the amount of the claim.

Mr. Ringgold, of Orleans, contended that the chairman of the Committee on Claims had withdrawn the bill, stating that the amount of $3502 was an error, and that the claim was only for $350.

Mr. Garstkamp, of Jefferson, the chairman of the Committee on Claims, explained the justice of the bill, but was continually interrupted.

Mr. Brewster, of Ouachita: This is a little bill for thirty-five hundred dollars to pay a poor justice of the peace for services rendered. If it was to put the State in debt to the extent of a million of dollars there would be no opposition to it. I would recommend its passage.

Mr. Meadows, of Claiborne: It is very strange that this claim should have slept from 1857 to 1871. I do not think that this House will ever get through with claims, or ever be able to pay the claims that are brought. I move that it be laid on the table.

On motion the committee refused to recommend to the House the passage of the bill.

On House bill No. 165, an act for the improvement of the navigation of Bayou Lacombe—

Mr. Garstkamp, of Jefferson: I am in favor of this bill. We have already voted $265,000 for some duck ponds or bayous, and I am in favor of granting $5000 more.

On House bill No. 164, an act for the improvement of the navigation of the river Tchefuncta and Bogue Falia—

Mr. Young, of Concordia: This bill is introduced by a Democratic member, and it?—I want to know— [Cries of "Out of order."]

Mr. H. Lott, of Rapides: The gentleman rises to a point of information, and should not be interrupted. He needs information. [Laughter.]

Mr. Young, of Concordia: If it comes from the Democrats, I am going to vote for it. [Laughter.]

Mr. Thompson, of St. Tammany, spoke in explanation of the bill, which was finally recommended to the House for passage.

Senate bill No. 4 being taken up—

Mr. Moncure, of Caddo: This is no claim for an appropriation, but is only substantial justice to parties whose land has been taken. I would state to the committee that in the year 1860 an act of the Legislature was adopted requiring that a cut-off should be made on Red river, through the land of ———. The improvement was made, and the same act that provided for a cut-off required that a commission should be appointed to assess the damages sustained by these landholders. In the year 1860 that commission assessed these damages. In 1861, before the claim could be presented to the Board of Public Works, who would have paid it, the board was abolished. It became necessary then to apply to the Legislature of the State which was done. It was approved by the Committee on Claims in the Senate and in the House, but it failed to pass in the General Assembly for want of time. It has been reported upon favorably by every committee on claims. It has passed the Senate committee of this present session. It was offered by the Senator from the parish of Caddo (Mr. Antoine), my colleague, and has received the approbation of the Senate itself. It is nothing more nor less than just. We must maintain the integrity of our State, and pay just and equitable claims, and this is one. The damages had been assessed by the very authority which the State had appointed, and I hope that this committee will fully recommend that the State shall do what it promised to do, and pay these gentlemen their damages. This cut-off runs through the centre of plantations, and in no case required the planter to move his improvements. It necessitated the removal of his dwelling house, and I tell you that this is nothing more than sheer justice, and I can not be induced to believe that this House would fail to do what is really just. I am willing, at all events, to submit the matter to this committee for action.

Mr. H. Lott, of Rapides: I have a word to say. I am in favor of the passage of this bill. I was on the first steamboat that ever passed through Schofield's cut-off, and its importance is simply this: It is to the Red river what the Raccourci cut-off is to the Mississippi. It is perhaps two hundred feet in some places, and from one hundred to two hundred acres have been taken away by it from the planter, who has to maintain a ferry in order to cross the river from one side of his plantation to the other. For this reason I am in favor of the claim.

Mr. Burch, of East Baton Rouge: I have seen pamphlets on this subject, and from what I have read, I believe the claim is just: but I wish to ascertain the fact whether it is the parties themselves named in this arrangement who are bringing the claim.

Mr. Moncure, of Caddo: It is the parties themselves.

Mr. Harper, of St. Charles: I have a great deal of respect for the assurances and convictions of my friend from Caddo, and if I could be convinced by assurances and eloquent speech, I certainly should vote to recommend the passage of this bill; but I am opposed to it for this reason—because I think that the Mississippi river was here, and its tributaries, before we came here, and I hold that the Mississippi river has got a right to pass through the State of Louisiana, I think. There is no law, there is no constitution which the State can adopt which will prevent the Mississippi river from running through the State.

[The honorable gentleman was here interrupted by cries of "Question!"]

I insist I have my right to speak as I hold the floor. I am opposed to this claim because I believe the Mississippi river and its tributaries have a right to pass through any place wherever—

Mr. Brewster, of Ouachita: This plantation does not lay on the Mississippi river. It is situated on Red river.

Mr. Harper, of St. Charles: I said the Mississippi river and its tributaries. I am convinced we ought not to pass this bill. There is no evidence whatever before this House that there is anything like the damage which the amount calls for, and I have had good evidence that the plantation is not damaged one cent, in fact, that it was benefited by this cut-off; and I think that as far as any damages are concerned, they are a mere song, and that the dwelling house was not materially injured; only a few cabins. Considering the evidence, I am satisfied that if the State of Louisiana should attempt to pass this bill, the parishes of Tensas and Caddo would ask for more damages than the valuation of the real estate and the property in the State. There are other claims as just as this, and if we recognize this there will be no end to claims. The Mississippi river is bound to go some way or other, and as I have already stated it is wrong in principle. This gentleman, when he purchased the land, took the responsibility. The State has no more right to pay him than for any crevasse which has occurred since the State of Louisiana was settled.

Mr Brewster, of Ouachita: If a street is extended and a house has to be removed would not the owner be paid for it? There is not a corporation that would dare to take a man's house.

Mr. Yorke, of Carroll: I beg the gentleman's pardon. There is a corporation in the parish of Carroll that dares to do it, and has done it. [Laughter.]

Mr. Brewster, of Ouachita: If it was necessary to go through this man's plantation, and it was appraised at some value by the commissioners, as a matter of course the State is bound to pay it. It was an unnatural channel, and if they had to cut this channel, and I am satisfied that it was necessary, we should recommend the passage of the bill to the House.

Mr. Worrall, of Jefferson: The motion, as I understand, is to recommend the passage of the bill. I am opposed to that motion. Here is a claim dating back as far as 1860—eleven years ago. I am simply here, sir, to raise a precedent set by this House to-night against the passage of this act. The gentleman from Caddo has given us reasons why this recommendation should be made to the House. They aver that a contract has been entered into by the State, and the Board of Public Works approved it. These gentlemen fulfill the terms, and then come here and ask that the State should comply with their part of the contract, and pay this large sum of money for supposed damages done to their property. If these facts were all as represented, and I have no reason to doubt the gentleman, it might be all very well, had not the House established a precedent to-night. General Sheridan, when he was here to protect the lives and liberties of the people, ordered work which was done in the parish of Jefferson. He commanded it to be done, and the parish committee obeyed his commands, and claimed damages for that work from the same Board of Public Works. They passed upon it, and decided it was a valid claim, and the courts of the State have so decided.

[The gentleman was interrupted by cries of "Question," and the bill was recommended for passage by a vote of 51 yeas to 22 nays.

The committee refused to rise by a vote of 28 yeas to 38 nays.

On Senate bill No. 95, for the relief of J. O. Nixon, late State Printer—

Mr. Carr, of De Soto: This contract was made in 1866, and the money was to be paid in cash, in greenbacks, but when they came to settle, they paid him part in cash and the balance in State notes or warrants, which were sold at a heavy loss.

The bill was recommended for passage.

On motion, the committee arose and reported progress.

At 10 P. M. the House adjourned, to meet to-morrow at 12 M.

FRIDAY, February 17.

The House met promptly at 12 M.
Speaker Carter in the chair.
Ninety-four members present.
Prayer by the Chaplain.

The Speaker called attention to the fact of the House becoming disorderly, and requested a discontinuance of the loud cries of "Mr. Speaker," immediately after a motion was made and before the Chair had an opportunity of stating it.

Mr. Butler, of Bienville, desired to have it on record that if there was anything wrong in regard to the Committee on Contingent Expenses, of which he was a member, he was not a party to it, having only been consulted about two small claims, one for five and the other for one hundred and fifty dollars.

Mr. Faulkner, of Caldwell: I desire to withdraw House bill No. 22, from the committee of the whole. I think a certain degree of courtesy is due from one member to another in this body or any other legislative body. Representing, as we do here, some fifty parishes in the State of Louisiana, it is unreasonable to suppose that I should be acquainted with the wants of the constituents of the gentlemen from St. Tammany, St. Charles, or other parishes, and a certain degree of courtesy is due from one member toward another in regard to measures which they have charge of. I have always extended that courtesy to every member on this floor. In regard to my motion House bill No. 22 simply reenacts bill 59, passed by the Legislature of 1870, authorizing the improvement of Bayou Bartholomew from its mouth or junction with the Ouachita river, to the State line of Arkansas. It is one of the largest bayous and in one of the most fertile portions of the State of Louisiana.

The Speaker: The gentleman's explanation is verging into a discussion. I hope he will make his motion.

Mr. Faulkner, of Caldwell: I move to reconsider the vote by which House bill No. 22 was made the special order of the day for Tuesday next.

Mr. Kenner, of Orleans: It is surprising to me that the gentleman from Caldwell should get up here and ask a suspension of the rules to pick up such a bill as No. 22. We are just beginning to understand the gentleman's speeches. They generally prove the deathblow to a bill. I move to lay his motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table prevailed.

Mr. Waters, of Orleans, desired to take up House bill No. 70, known as the Strauss bill, the same having been reconsidered yesterday by vote of the House.

A discussion ensued on points of order, which terminated in the withdrawal of the motion.

Mr. Davidson, of Livingston, being in the chair, several bills were disposed of. House bill No. — having finally passed—

Mr. Worrall, of Jefferson: I desire to enter my protest against the passage of bills making such appropriations without giving us an opportunity of seeing them.

The gentleman having been called to order, moved that the Speaker pro tem be requested to vacate.

Mr. Carr, of De Soto: That is entirely out of order. It is not only disrespectful to the present occupant of the chair, but to the whole House.

House bill No. 55, known as the cotton inspection bill, having been called up on its third reading, and amendments being decided out of order—

Mr. Ullman, of Orleans: I hold in my hand a protest by the Chamber of Commerce, and would ask the Clerk to read it.

Mr. Barrett, of Orleans: I object to any such protest on this floor. That protest is not before the House.

Mr. Garstkamp, of Jefferson: I rise to a point of order. Any member has the right to enter a protest against a bill before, or even after its final passage.

The previous question having been called, the bill was lost by a vote of 37 yeas to 53 nays.

On motion, the House adjourned at 2:40 P. M., until 12 M. to-morrow.

DEBATES OF THE SENATE.

FRIDAY, February 10, 1871.

[CONTINUED.]

RELIEF OF NORBERT F. SCOPINI AND FRANCOIS LATTIER.

The Senate having under consideration the bill for the relief of Norbert F. Scopini and François Lattier—

Mr. Thomas said: The claim that this bill is intended to pay is one of the old debts of the State, contracted in 1860 by an act of the Legislature. [Mr. Thomas here read the act referred to.] A board of appraisers were appointed to determine the damages which had been sustained by these parties, and they made a report. The right of appeal from that report to the district court was reserved by both the State and these parties claimant, such appeal to be made within one year after the report of the board of appraisers was made. The gentlemen that composed that board were residents of that section, and neighboring planters. They met together under oath, and proceeded to assess the amount of damages under the direction of the chief engineer of the State. This matter was up before the Legislature of 1860, but on account of the Board of Public Works being abolished (although that body had previously approved the claim) it was not paid. The war that followed the year 1860 prevented the claim from being pressed until the last session of this General Assembly. A bill similar to this was then introduced into the House, and passed; but, on account of the Wickliffe trial, it failed to pass the Senate. The Senate will doubtless be disposed to look upon these old claims with suspicion, but it is on account of the justice and honesty of this debt that the parties claimant have persisted in its collection. I do not think it necessary to make any argument on this question. It is merely requisite to make a statement of the facts governing the case, which I have done. If any Senator desires further information on the subject I will take pleasure in giving him all in my power.

Mr. Ray inquired whether the claim was for the land which was destroyed in the making of the cut-off, or for the land which had been swept away by the current?

Mr. Thomas replied that it was for the land through which the cut-off was made, and the property destroyed by the current.

Mr. Antoine said that previous to the making of the cut-off, there was no navigation there. It was that which rendered the cut-off necessary.

Mr. Lewis: Owing to the numerous claims of this character, which are coming in against the State, I think it is time for us to change our tactics entirely in that respect. Instead of making appropriations to pay these claims, we should simply allow the parties to sue the State. It is true, that when these claims are referred to the proper committee, that body notifies the party or parties claimant to appear before it and prove their claim to be a just one; but there is no one who is sufficiently interested in the matter to present any rebutting evidence, and the matter is, in consequence, not sufficiently investigated to allow the committee to report properly upon it. Before we proceed any further in this matter, I would like to be informed by the Senator who presents this bill whether this amount has been assessed by the courts.

Mr. Thomas replied that the matter had never been brought before the courts. The amount of damage had been assessed by a board of appraisers, from whose decision the State had reserved the right of appeal to the district court] within a year thereafter. Such appeal had never been taken.

The bill finally passed.

THE REGISTRATION BILL.

Mr. Pinchback having called up the registration bill—

Mr. Campbell moved its postponement until Friday next.

Mr. Pinchback moved to indefinitely postpone the bill, in order to test the sense of the Senate as to whether they desired to pass it or not.

Mr. Blackman: I hope the Senator from New Orleans (Mr. Pinchback) will not become so outraged in his feelings, and so perfectly carried away by the previous action of the Senate on this bill as to move the indefinite postponement of a measure of such importance to the people of the State. I hope the Senator will withdraw his motion, because he can not afford to go before the public and before the people whom he represents after making a motion to postpone indefinitely a bill on the passage or the defeat of which depends his success at the race for the United States Congress. When these three bills (the registration law, the election law and the constabulary law) were before the Senate during its last session, I then warned the Senator from Orleans (Mr. Pinchback) and the Senator from Ouachita (Mr. Ray) that they were placing a stick in the hands of the executive to break their own necks with. And now, when the cry is raised that there can be no fair election under the present registration law, that it is left to five men in the State of Louisiana to declare who shall be elected to represent the people in this General Assembly, and that the last election was a swindle and a fraud upon the people of the State, when we come forward and offer to assist in repealing this obnoxious statute, the gentleman rises in his seat and moves to indefinitely postpone the consideration of the bill, in order to test the sense of the Senate on its merits. Now, let us not postpone this measure: let us take it up at once and act upon it. Let us repeal this law, for as long as it stands on the statute books as it does at present, there can be no fair election in the State of Louisiana. As long as the present law is in force, the government ceases to be republican in its character, and the people might as well refrain from assembling at the polls and casting their votes on the day of election for the men of their choice. If the gentleman persists in his motion, which, if adopted, will leave the power in the hands of five men to elect whom they please to the offices of the State, let him take the consequences. The moment is propitious for action on this bill, and when the gentleman makes a proposition to postpone it indefinitely, he takes upon himself a responsibility too heavy for him to bear. Let us act upon this measure at once. Let the people say who shall be their representatives in this General Assembly, and who shall be their public officers. I appeal to the members of this Senate, both Republicans and Democrats, who have the interest of the State at heart, to act upon this measure as it behooves the representatives of the people to act. I hope that the motion of the Senator from Orleans (Mr. Pinchback) will not prevail. I move to lay that motion on the table.

Mr. Pinchback: I will state my reasons for making this motion to postpone. By reference to the journal of the Senate for the last ten days, it will be seen that it has been the set purpose of the majority to evade the consideration of this bill. I have made attempts repeatedly to bring it before the Senate, and on every occasion, either on account of a disposition on the part of a majority of the Senate to defeat the bill, or on account of lukewarmness on the part of the friends of the measure, the order of the day has been postponed day after day; and now, when it is again before the Senate, a motion is made to postpone it until one week from to-day. What do these several motions indicate? They indicate unquestionably that it is not the disposition of the majority to pass this bill, or even to consider it. I have heard several Senators say that they have not read the bill, and that they do not know what it contains, notwithstanding the fact that it has been upon our desks for the last week or ten days. It shows, to say the least of it, that they have very little interest in the matter. Now, I desire to have this bill acted upon to-day, and as it is proposed to kill it by time, I desire to be decent in the matter and to kill it immediately by an indefinite postponement. I have made a motion to that effect simply for the purpose of testing the sense of the Senate on the merits of the bill, and I want to be distinctly understood as not being in favor of postponement. I brought that motion before the Senate in order to see whether it would do this thing decently, or whether it would kill the bill by time, for I have no doubt that it will eventually be killed unless the present aspect of affairs changes very soon. There is no Senator on this floor who represents his constituents properly who does not know that they demand the amendment of these laws. Were it possible for me or any other Senator to traverse the State from one end to the other, and take the sense of the people on this question, it would be found that they are almost unanimously in favor of the modification of this law. Even in the city of New Orleans, where it was supposed that it was administered fairly its operation was considered grievous. If that can be said of the operation of the law in the parish of Orleans, what can be said of it in the parish of De Soto and other parishes that I could mention, where the gentlemen who were not independent candidates, and who were not on either the Democratic or Republican ticket, were declared elected to seats in the General Assembly under the operation of this law. Now, I wish to be distinctly understood that I do not place the responsibility of the abuse of this law upon his Excellency. It is not the Governor that I am opposing in this measure. I have heard it said that I wanted to fight the Governor, but I have no such intention. He is a Republican Governor, and I want to support him; but I oppose the law as it now stands, because it places this great power into the hands of five men. In the consideration of this question, I look upon the Governor not in his official capacity, but I look upon him as a man.

If he ceased to be Governor of the State to-morrow, he would simply be a man. Now it seems to be the opinion of some of the warm friends of the Governor on the floor of the Senate, that unless these laws are allowed to remain on the statute books, as they are at present, H. C. Warmoth cannot be re-elected Governor of the State of Louisiana. I do not take that view of the question at all. If Governor Warmoth's administration has been acceptable to the people of Louisiana, it does not make any difference whether we have the registration law, or the election law, or any other law, the people will continue him in office. If his administration has not been acceptable to the people, the registration law nor the election law, nor any other law that can be passed by this General Assembly, can ever make him Governor of this great State again. It is not at the Governor that I wish to aim this blow, if there be any blow in it; but at the men who have abused the law as it now stands. I wish to discontinue such practices as have been carried on in those parishes that I have mentioned, where men that were never candidates have been declared elected to offices. I want to ask the members of this Senate whether they are prepared to kill a measure which will put into the hands of the people the right to choose who shall be their representatives and public officers, or whether they are willing that the power to declare who shall be elected shall be vested in five men. It is for the purpose of testing the sense of the Senate on that question that I make the motion to postpone indefinitely. I hope my motion will not prevail, and that the Senate will proceed to consider this important measure immediately. To the gentlemen who may feel inclined to retain the law on the statute books, I would say that there were Senators on the floor of this Senate during the last session who confidently believed that all they had to do was to go back home and be returned here by their constituents. I look around for them now; but, alas! I see them not. As these things were done in the cases of the gentlemen to whom I refer, take warning that some of you who occupy seats here now, and favor the retention of this law, are not treated in the same way. I will take occasion to say, in this connection, that I never did support the election laws in good feeling. I had no doubt, however, that they were right at that time, and I so stated from my seat on the floor of the Senate. I looked upon it as a necessity. It can not be forgotten that in many parishes in the State I dared not make my appearance to address my fellow-citizens at that time. It can not be forgotten that had I ventured into Caddo parish for the purpose of making a speech from the stump, I would have been raised to the nearest lamp post. But that day has passed. Since that time I have visited Shreveport, and have made a more radical speech from the rostrum in that little city than I have ever made on the floor of this Senate—the speech in which I threatened to burn down the city of New Orleans to the contrary notwithstanding. I was treated there with the greatest courtesy, and I believe that in any parish of the State the people of my race can now safely canvass the issues which may be before the people. As I regard the people as the source of all power, I think the right should be given to them to select their officers and representatives. It was with the view of accomplishing this great purpose that I desired the Senate to consider this bill at once, in order that any radical changes that Senators may desire to make may be made and the bill passed. If, however, it is not considered proper in the wisdom of a majority of the Senate to make any change in the law as it stands at present on the statute books, let us meet the question fairly and squarely. Let us consider this bill at once, and reject or adopt it, as the Senate in its wisdom may determine. Let us stop this dilly dallying, making postponement after postponement day after day, to the end that a measure of so much importance as this may be defeated. I am in hopes that the motion to postpone will not prevail, and that after voting the motion down the Senate will proceed at once to consider this important bill.

The motion to postpone indefinitely was then laid on the table, and the motion of Senator Campbell to postpone until Friday next was adopted.

THE WAREHOUSE BILL.

The Senate having under consideration the bill creating the Louisiana Warehouse Company, and guaranteeing the bonds thereof to the amount of three hundred thousand dollars—

Mr. Blackman, said: I do not suppose that the few remarks I shall make on this bill will change the views of any Senator who has made up his mind to vote for it. I simply desire to place myself on record as being strenuously opposed to the passage of any such measures. I say that the passage of such bills, giving away the money of the people for the purpose of building up private enterprises, will eventually bankrupt the State. I predict that unless the executive interposes that power which is given him by the constitution and vetoes such measures as this, the people of the State will be forced eventually to repudiation. I believe that such debts should be repudiated. The idea that the working people of the State of Louisiana should be taxed for the purpose of fostering private enterprises! I repeat with emphasis that if the Legislature persists in the passage of such measures, and the executive of the State, to whom the people now look, does not interpose his veto power, and if there is not a corporal's guard left in the Legislature to sustain his vetoes, the people of the State, irrespective of party, must place themselves upon the platform of repudiation. I am in favor of the repudiation of such debts. As I said before, I do not expect to change one single vote, but I wish the remarks I now make to go upon the record, in order that in the future I may present them to the people of the State, and say, "This is the position I took on this measure." I call for the yeas and nays on the final passage of the bill.

The bill finally passed.

The Senate then adjourned.

Albert Pike has been visiting Jackson, Mississippi, where it was observed that he was seedy, but had a lordly air, a leonine aspect, and a dirty pipe.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW.

JOHN M. COONEY,
(Late Minute Clerk, Fourth District Court),
ATTORNEY AT LAW, NOTARY PUBLIC AND COMMISSIONER OF DEEDS FOR ALL THE STATES.
Particular attention paid to the execution of commissions to take depositions.
Office, 21 Camp Street, New Orleans.
je12 1y

HAWKINS & THARP,
(J. HAWKINS—ISAIAH THARP.)
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS AT LAW,
19..........Commercial Place..........19
NEW ORLEANS.
Prompt attention given to business in the State and United States Courts ja13

A. W. ROBERTS,
ATTORNEY AT LAW,
LAKE PROVIDENCE, LOUISIANA.
Will practice in the courts of the Thirteenth Judicial District, composed of the parishes of Carroll, Madison, Tensas and Concordia, and in the Supreme Court at New Orleans. de7 1y

T. A. BARTLETTE,
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW,
142..........Gravier street..........142
(Up stairs),
je13 1y NEW ORLEANS.

JOHN B. HOWARD.
LAW OFFICE,
26..........St. Charles street..........26
Prompt attention given to civil business in the several courts of the State. fe22 1y

S. MYERS,
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW,
81 Carondelet street, near Poydras street.
oc11 3m

INSURANCE.

TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL STATEMENT OF
CRESCENT MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY,
For the Year Ending April 30, 1870.

Gross Premiums for the Year..........$594,899 63
Assets of Company, April 30, 1869..........996,827 63

The Board of Trustees resolved to pay interest at Six per cent in cash on all outstanding Certificates of Scrip, and also to pay in cash the issue of 1859 to the legal holders thereof on and after the second Monday in June next.

They have also declared a Scrip Dividend of Eight Per Cent on the earned premiums entitled to participate for the year ending April 30, 1870, for which certificates will be issued on and after the first Monday in August next, free of government tax.

THOMAS A. ADAMS, President;
C. T. BUDDECKE, Vice-President.
HENRY V. OGDEN, Secretary.

TRUSTEES:

Thomas A. Adams,	Samuel E. Kennedy,
C. T. Buddecke,	Samuel B. Newman,
F. H. Foley,	J. J. Garrard,
A. G. Ober,	A. Thompson,
P. Simms,	John Phelps,
A. Elmer Bader,	R. H. Summers.

my27 1y

GUARDIAN MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY, OF NEW YORK.

Established in 1859.

ALL POLICIES NON-FORFEITABLE.
CASH OR THIRD LOAN PREMIUMS.
NO NOTES REQUIRED.

Last Cash Dividend Fifty Per Cent.

Cash assets over..........$2,000,000
Policies in force..........25,000,000
Annual income..........1,000,000
Losses paid since 1859..........500,000

OFFICERS:
W. H. PECKHAM, President.
W. T. HOOKER, Vice President.
L. McADAM, Secretary and Actuary.
G. A. FREDRIKAR, Superintendent of Agencies.

DIRECTORS:
Hon. John A. Dix, New York.
John J. Crane, President Bank of Republic.
William M. Vermilye, Banker, Wall street, (Vermilye & Co.)
Charles G. Rockwood, Cashier Newark Banking Company.
Hon. George Opdyke, ex-Mayor of New York.
Minot C. Morgan, Banker.
Thomas Rigney, firm Thomas Rigney & Co.
Benjamin B. Sherman, Treasurer New York Steam Sugar Refining Company.
Aaron Arnold, firm Arnold, Constable & Co.
Richard H. Browne, of Wetmore & Browne, lawyers.
E. V. Haughwout, firm E. V. Haughwout & Co.
William Wilkens, firm W. Wilkens & Co.
Julius H. Pratt, Merchant.
William W. Wright, Merchant.
Charles J. Starr, Merchant.
William Allen, Merchant.
George W. Cuyler, Banker, Palmyra, New York.
George T. Hope, President Continental Fire Insurance Company.
John H. Sherwood, Park Place.
Walton H. Peckham, corner Fifth avenue and Twenty-third street, New York.
William T. Hooker, Wall street.
Edward H. Wright, Newark, New Jersey.
George W. Farlee, Lawyer.
W. L. Cogswell, Merchant.

JOSEPH MAGNER,
Manager for Louisiana and Texas, No. 158 Common street, New Orleans. fe18 2y

SALAMANDER INSURANCE CO.,
EXCLUSIVELY FOR FIRE RISKS—CITY AND COUNTRY,
25 Royal Street, opposite Citizens' Bank.
CHARLES ROMAN, President, JULES LeMORE, Secretary.

Board of Trustees:

Charles Roman,	James Wood,
Felix Grima,	J. Villarrubia,
Domingo Fatjo,	Arthur Forstall,
T. Baily Blanchard,	Charles Lafitte,
Placide Forstall,	François Guevdan,
Emile Dupre,	Clement Millaudon,
Felix Limet,	C. E. Girardey,
F. Saloy,	C. Tiblier,
M. A. de Lizardi,	Christian Roselius,
Antonio Lanata,	Louis Matte. de24m

MERCHANTS' MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY OF NEW ORLEANS,
104..........Canal Street..........104

SIXTEENTH ANNUAL STATEMENT.

In conformity with the requirements of their Charter, the Company publish the following statement:

Premiums received during the year ending May 31, 1870, including unearned premiums of the previous year—

On Fire risks	$779,279 60	
On Marine risks	124,034 33	
On River risks	272,043 62	
Total Premiums		$1,175,007 55
Less unearned Premiums		232,555 00
Net earned Premiums, May 31, 1870		$942,452 55
Losses Paid—		
On Fire risks	$295,999 76	
On Marine risks	34,540 09	
On River risks	91,099 86	
	$421,540 31	
Taxes	47,968 89	
Reinsurances and return Premiums	34,914 39	
	$504,423 59	
Deduct Interest, less expenses	33,966 10	470,457 49
Profit		$471,995 06

The company have the following assets:

Real Estate	$125,000 95
City Bonds	122,940 00
Bank and Railroad Stocks	37,456 00
Notes secured by mortgages	429,555 85
Notes secured by pledge	67,404 49
Bills receivable	44,417 69
Premiums in course of collection	69,929 25
State Bonds	1,500 00
Scrips of other companies	7,800 25
Stock of Valette Dry Dock Company	19,800 00
Stock of Levee Steam Cotton Press	2,300 00
Stock of Marine Dry Dock and Shipyard Company	500 00
Stock of Louisiana Equitable Life Insurance Company	250 00
Mortgage Bonds Grand Lodge of Louisiana	5,000 00
Mortgage Bonds Turners' Association	2,000 00
Mortgage Bonds Odd Fellows' Hall	5,000 00
Mortgage Bonds Ice Manufacturing Company	6,250 00
Judgment on Mortgage Notes	12,000 00
Cash on hand	592,790 68
Total assets	$1,555,154 54

Less—

Unclaimed Interest and Interest payable July next on all outstanding scrips of the Company	$103,550 58	
Issues of Scrips for the years 1861 and 1862, payable in July	204,555 00	
Unearned Premiums on the thirty-first May, 1870	232,555 00	
		540,490 58
		$1,014,663 96

The above statement is a just, true and correct transcript from the books of the Company.
PAUL FOURCHY, President.
G. W. NOTT, Secretary.

STATE OF LOUISIANA, Parish of Orleans, City of New Orleans.
Sworn to and subscribed before me the third day of June, 1870.
S. MAGNER, Notary Public.

At a meeting of the Board of Directors held on the third day of June, 1870, it was resolved to declare a Scrip Dividend of Fifty (50) per cent on the net earned participating premiums for the year ending thirty-first May, 1870, for which certificates will be issued on and after the first day of August next. Also, to pay on and after the second MONDAY in July next, the whole issues of Scrips for the years 1861 and 1862, and six per cent interest on all outstanding Scrip of the Company.

Directors:

P. Fourchy,	P. Maspero,
D. McCoard,	M. Puig,
L. F. Generes,	P. S. Wiltz,
S. Z. Relf,	Joseph Hoy,
D. A. Chaffraix,	Charles Lafitte,

J. J. Fernandez, je5 tf

CORPORATIONS.

CHARTER..........CHARTER.

CHARTER OF THE "RAMIE PLANTING, MANUFACTURING AND PAPER-MAKING COMPANY OF LOUISIANA."

United States of America, State of Louisiana, Parish of Orleans, City of New Orleans.

Be it known that on this day, before me, Ferdinand Butler Earhart, a notary public in and for the parish of Orleans, State of Louisiana, duly commissioned and qualified, personally came and appeared Othello J. Flagg, Henry W. Canney, Robert Scott, Alcibiade Durapau and Robert H. Chadbourn, all of the parish of St. Charles, in this State; Gasper Hunzicker, of the county of Pike, State of Mississippi; Zuinglius McKay, Theodore Meeks and Jean Salvant, of the parish of Jefferson, in this State, and Henry Weber, Robert Lynne, Moses Fox, Joseph D. Taylor, John Moylan, Adolphe Bouchard, John R. Walker, Harvey C. Caulkins, Jacob Hassinger, George G. Blodget, Thomas Schorr and Rufus King Cutler, of the parish of Orleans, in this State, all of whom severally declared, that availing themselves of the provisions of the several statutes of the State of Louisiana, relative to the organization of corporations in this State, they have agreed and bind themselves and their successors and those whom they represent, to form themselves into a corporation, for the objects and under the stipulations, regulations and obligations following, to wit:

ARTICLE I.

The corporate name of this company shall be THE RAMIE PLANTING, MANUFACTURING AND PAPER-MAKING COMPANY OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA.

ARTICLE II.

The legal domicile of the company shall be in the city of New Orleans, and all legal process shall be served on the president of the company.

ARTICLE III.

The objects of this company shall be to purchase or lease, or both if necessary, to such an extent as the directors may determine, lands in the State of Louisiana, whenever, in their judgment, it becomes necessary or advisable for the purpose of cultivating the ramie plant, to prepare the fibre of the same for market, and for paper-making purposes, and to exercise such powers and privileges as may be necessary for conducting the business appertaining thereto.

ARTICLE IV.

The capital stock of the company shall be one million five hundred thousand dollars, divided into thirty thousand shares of fifty dollars each, which capital stock and shares may be increased by a vote of a majority of the stockholders in proportion to the interests owned by each. Said shares shall be sold at five dollars ($5) per share until otherwise ordered by the directors, and be deemed full paid; and no stockholder in this corporation shall ever be liable for any sum beyond the amount of his stock.

ARTICLE V.

The business of the company shall be conducted by a board of twenty-one directors, composed of the following stockholders, to wit: Othello J. Flagg, Henry W. Canney, Robert Scott, Alcibiade Durapau, Gasper Hunzicker, Theodore Meeks, Henry Weber, Robert Lynne, Moses Fox, Joseph D. Taylor, John Moylan, Adolphe Bouchard, John R. Walker, Harvey C. Caulkins, George G. Blodget, Jacob Hassinger, Thomas Schorr, R. King Cutler, Jean Salvant, Robert H. Chadbourn and Zuinglius McKay; and they are hereby constituted the first Board of Directors, who shall serve until their successors are qualified. On the third Monday in January, eighteen hundred and seventy-two, and annually thereafter, there shall be held at the office of the company, in New Orleans, an election for directors. Each stockholder shall be entitled to one vote for each share held, and may vote either in person or by proxy. A plurality of votes will be sufficient for an election, but no stockholder shall vote more than one thousand shares. The directors shall, at their first meeting after their election, choose from their number a president, a vice-president, treasurer and an attorney, who shall hold their offices for one year from the date of their election, and until their successors are elected and qualified. The Board of Directors shall elect a secretary, a general superintendent and sub-superintendents, who shall serve at the will and pleasure of the Board of Directors. No one shall be eligible to the position of director who does not hold at least five shares of the capital stock free from all dues to the company.

ARTICLE VI.

This charter may be altered or amended by a vote of the stockholders who hold a majority of shares.

ARTICLE VII.

The undersigned directors being a majority of the whole number of stockholders, and a majority of the directors in "The Louisiana Company," "The Jefferson Company" and "The St. Charles Company," which companies were heretofore formed by them; now, therefore, we, the directors of the hereinbefore named three ramie planting and manufacturing companies do hereby agree, in our capacity of directors, and in our full capacity as owners of at least seventeen-twentieths (17-20) of all the capital stock and shares in said companies, to wit: "Louisiana," "Jefferson" and "St. Charles," do hereby revoke, annul and forever set aside the charter of said "Louisiana," "Jefferson" and "St. Charles" companies, and we do hereby and herein, by these presents, ordain and establish this, "The Ramie Planting and Manufacturing and Paper-Making Company of the State of Louisiana," as the sole and only company in the State of Louisiana, and we and they hereby transfer, assign, set over and deliver unto this aforesaid named company all the property, money, rights, privileges, credits or evidences of debt, and all and everything belonging or appertaining to said heretofore formed "Louisiana," "Jefferson" and "St. Charles" companies.

ARTICLE VIII.

That all and every person or persons who hold or hold genuine certificates of stock in any of said companies, viz: Louisiana, Jefferson or St. Charles, and which certificates of stock have been legally issued and filled up in the books of any of said companies, shall present the same to the Board of Directors of this company within thirty days from the first publication of this charter, under the penalty of forfeiture and absolute nullity of said stock. That when said person or persons, holder or holders of said legally issued certificates of stock shall present the same in the manner and within the time aforesaid, they shall receive, share for share, certificates of stock in this company, on their surrendering to this company their certificates of stock in any of the companies hereinbefore named, and now dissolved; all as per resolutions of the directors and a majority of the stockholders in each of the said companies, as will more fully appear by the proceedings of said companies in their respective books, and minutes of their proceedings, which have been surrendered to, and are now in the possession of this company.

ARTICLE IX.

That all ramie roots, for the purpose of planting all lands which may be purchased or leased, or which shall hereafter be purchased or leased by this company, will be purchased by order of the Board of Directors of this company.

ARTICLE X.

Adolphe Bouchard, Esq., the sole owner of the "decorticateur," a machine for the preparing of the ramie fibre and all other textile fibres, hereby binds himself, his heirs and assigns, to furnish to this company the exclusive right for the State of Louisiana, which he has or may hereafter have in the above named machine or its improvements; and he furthermore herein declares that he has filed a "caveat" with the proper authorities for his patent to the same, and in advance of all others.

ARTICLE XI.

This company shall go into operation from and after this date, and the following named persons are chosen as officers to serve until the third Monday in January, eighteen hundred and seventy-two, viz:

Thomas Schorr, president; John R. Walker, vice-president; Henry Weber, treasurer; R. King Cutler, attorney, and the following named officers were elected to serve during the pleasure of the Board of Directors, viz:

Robert Lynne, general superintendent; Joseph Bouchard, secretary; and the following committees were established, and the following named directors are chosen of said committees, viz:

Finance Committee.—R. King Cutler, Henry Weber, Theodore Meeks, Thomas Schorr and John R. Walker.

Lands, Contracts, Notes and Account Committee. Harvey C. Caulkins, Robert Lynne, Othello J. Flagg, Alcibiade Durapau and Joseph D. Taylor.

Committee on Machinery and Agricultural Implements.—Robert Lynne, Adolphe Bouchard, Gasper Hunzicker, Zuinglius McKay and John R. Walker.

Committee on Labor.—John Moylan, Moses Fox, Henry W. Canney, Othello J. Flagg, Harvey C. Caulkins, Robert Lynne and Gasper Hunzicker.

All of which said committees are chosen to serve for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE XII.

That the president of this company shall give bond, with good and solvent security in the sum of ten thousand dollars; that the treasurer of this company shall give bond as aforesaid in the sum of fifty thousand dollars; that the secretary of this company shall give bond as aforesaid in the sum of five thousand dollars, for the faithful performance of the duties of their respective offices, all of which bonds shall be filed with the archives of this company prior to any certificate of stock being issued; and that said president, treasurer and secretary are the only officers whose signatures are necessary on certificates of stock, together with the seal of the company.

ARTICLE XIII.

The seal of this company shall be as follows: The name of the company encircling the seal; the device shall be the ramie plant, growing, and a bale of the fibre.

ARTICLE XIV.

The liquidation of the affairs of this company shall be made by three commissioners, appointed by a majority of the stockholders at a meeting convened for that purpose, after thirty days previous notice in two newspapers published in the city of New Orleans, one of which newspapers shall be the official journal of the State.

United States internal revenue stamp of the denomination of forty-five cents being hereto attixed and duly canceled.

Thus done and passed in my office, in the city of New Orleans, in the presence of Philip Lawrence and Frank Tortorici, lawful witnesses, who hereunto sign their names with said appearers and me, notary, this eighth day of February, A. D. eighteen hundred and seventy-one.

Signed:

O. J. Flagg,	H. W. Canney,
Theo. Meeks,	G. Hunzicker,
Robert Scott,	M. Fox,
H. C. Caulkins,	R. King Cutler,
A. Bouchard,	A. Durapau,
Robert Lynne,	J. R. Walker,
H. Weber,	J. D. Taylor,
Thomas Schorr,	Zuinglius McKay,
John Moylan,	R. H. Chadbourn,
George G. Blodget,	Jean Salvant
Jacob Hassinger,	(per R. King Cutler),
P. Lawrence,	F. Tortorici,

F. B. Earhart, notary public.

STATE OF LOUISIANA, Parish of Orleans,

I, the undersigned notary, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the original act duly extant in my current register.

In faith whereof, I grant these presents under my signature and the impress of my seal of office, at the city of New Orleans, this ninth day of February, 1871.

F. B. EARHART, Notary Public.

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