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Letter from Hon. John F. Farnsworth.

ST. CHARLES, Ill., August 6, 1872.

Daniel Shepard, Esq., Secretary of the Illinois Republican State Central Committee:

DEAR SIR—Upon returning home for a month's absence, I find your letter of July 11, stating that the committee had directed you to ask my aid during the present canvass, and desiring that I should fill such appointments to speak as the committee might make for me, etc.

In spite of my love for the Republican party (which I helped to create), and for the many personal and political friends who still cling to its organization and support its nominee, some of whom are upon your State ticket, I can not persuade myself to accept the invitation of the committee, and labor for the re-election of President Grant.

It is a conviction of long standing in my mind, and which has constantly grown and strengthened, until I can not divest myself of it, that his re election, with a continuance of the present administration and its policy for another four years, would not be for the highest good of the republic.

Prior to the Philadelphia convention, I did not hesitate to express the hope, whenever conversed with upon the subject, that some other Republican might receive the nomination for President. After that convention was held, however, and until the action of the Baltimore convention made it certain that the support of another Republican would not result in, nor hazard, the defeat of both, I did not feel justified in pronouncing against the action of the former convention. But now the case is different. It is simply a choice of Republicans. Greeley or Grant will be elected President of the United States. Under these circumstances, and with these alternatives, I can not hesitate, but must follow my convictions.

The advocates of the election of General Grant object to Mr. Greeley because he is supported by Democrats and former rebels. But he was, like Grant, nominated by Republicans; the Democrats and rebels did not put him in the field; had nothing to do with naming him as a candidate, and they would have supported almost any other capable Republican who was honestly and sincerely in favor of needed reforms in this government, had he been brought out by the Republican convention at Cincinnati instead of Mr. Greeley.

To my mind the fact that the former rebels of the South and the Democratic party support him is the most gratifying spectacle that has been presented since the war; for it shows that they accept the verdict of the war, and are willing to abide by it and by its legitimate results—only asking, in return, honesty in the administration of the government, and the same rights of self-government which the citizens of the Northern States enjoy.

If the election of Mr. Greeley will bring peace, good order and fraternal good will in the South, it is certainly a "consummation devoutly to be wished." I think it will. The most intelligent people of the South, and those most interested in the preservation of good order there, say it will. A large and intelligent portion of the Republican, and the entire Democratic party of the North say it will have that effect. The present administration has failed in this; and is there any promise, in its continuance for another four years, of a better result?

It is now seven years since the termination of the war, and what do we see? The advocates of the election of General Grant are fighting the battles over again, repeat [illegible] and threatening to "hang Jeff Davis on a sour apple tree." In my opinion, it is high time we should give our attention to issues which concern the present and future welfare of the country.

Mr. Greeley is a true type of the self-educated, self-made American Republican. With Chase, Sumner, Hale, Julian and many other apostles of the anti-slavery cause (who are now, I am glad to see, in favor of his election), he helped to form the Republican party. From these men I received almost my first lessons in politics, and I have less distrust of my own judgment in this matter from the fact that I am still in their company.

Mr. Greeley is thoroughly familiar with the history of our country, political, industrial, educational and legislative. He has been successful in his own business. His education and profession did not instill any of the elements of aristocracy. They were essentially republican in their influence. He is confessedly the chief journalist in America; and it does seem to me that that profession is quite as good a preparatory school for the Presidency, especially in time of peace, as an education at a military academy and the profession of arms. Who would not prefer the counsel or advice of Horace Greeley upon a political question to that of any one of the great military chiefs of the country? Who is a more competent judge of the statesmen and statesmanship of the country than he? I will not compare. The friends of the present administration, it seems to me, are indiscreet in challenging camparisons.

There are many reasons why there should be a change of administration. I have been a member of Congress thirteen years, and truth compels me to say that, during that period, there has been the most wasteful and extravagant use of the public money, and the least accountability of those who have disbursed it during the present administration.

There can and will be no genuine civil service reform under this administration. The feeble apparent efforts which have been made in that direction are a standing joke in Washington, among the chief friends of the administration, and have only increased the methods of "how not to do it." Indeed, when they declare that the administration is in favor of this much needed reform, it is done with a wink of one eye at the grimness of the joke.

There should be a change of administration in order to arrest the tendency to federalism and centralization, whither this one is rapidly hastening.

It has been argued, and I have recently seen it repeated in the letter of the Hon. James G. Blaine to Mr. Sumner, that there is danger that the Congress that will be brought into power with the election of Mr. Greeley will refuse to legislate to enforce the thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth amendments to the constitution, etc., and that, without such legislation, "they (the amendments) are but sounding brass and tinkling cymbals to the colored man," etc. If those amendments depend upon acts of Congress to give them force and vitality, then, indeed, are they "as sounding brass and tinkling cymbals;" for what one Congress does, the next one may undo. The very reason for their being imbedded in the constitution is, that they may be beyond the reach of Congresses or State Legislatures. They are enforced by the courts, precisely as an act of Congress is enforced. Besides, in every one of the constitutions of the rebel States are provisions securing to the people of those States the same rights which are guaranteed by those amendments.

If the people of Illinois must rely upon laws enacted by Representatives from Mississippi, Georgia and Massachusetts for the enjoyment of their rights; or if the people of Texas and California are to depend upon Congressmen from Illinois and Pennsylvania, then their rights are held by very feeble and uncertain tenure. No; the nearer we get to popular sovereignty the better. The law-makers and courts, and the people for whom the laws and courts are provided, should be near each other—should be all one people.

I thank the committee and yourself for the invitation extended to me. I would gladly have accepted it, or refrained from taking any part in this canvass, could I have felt it consistent with duty to do so. I know how intolerant and tyrannical a party long wedded to power becomes. As the old Pro-Slavery party would tolerate no independence of thought, or speech, or action, so it is now. Every Republican who refuses his support to Grant is personally assailed and denounced.

Charles Sumner has been twice stricken down in the United States Senate. The first the blow was struck by Preston S. Brooks, because he denounced the slave oligarchy. The second time—I need not say who struck the blow; it is fresh in the recollection of the people.

JOHN F. FARNSWORTH.

LAWS OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY.

No. 88.

AN ACT

To incorporate the St. Paul Methodist Episcopal Church Association of Shreveport, Louisiana.

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana in General Assembly convened, That Samuel Armstead, Peter Johnson, Abraham Mitchell, John Walker, William Harper, Hartwell Swanson and Moses Sterritt, be and the same are declared a body corporate and politic, under the name and style of the St. Paul Methodist Episcopal Church Association of Shreveport, Louisiana, where the company to be known as the St. Paul Methodist Episcopal Church Association will be domiciliated.

SEC. 2. Be it further enacted, etc., That said company shall be capable in law to purchase, receive, hold, lease, sell, and otherwise acquire or alienate real or personal estate; shall have a common seal, and may break or alter the same at will; and by said corporate name may sue and be sued; provided that the lands so held or acquired shall be held for the proper uses and benefit of said St. Paul Methodist Episcopal Church Association of Shreveport, Louisana.

SEC. 3. Be it further enacted, etc., That the affairs of said association shall be managed by the board of trustees, the aforesaid incorporators to constitute the board of trustees for the first year and until their successors are chosen, which shall be done annually on the first Monday in May, or as soon thereafter as practicable, by the members in good standing of said St. Paul Methodist Episcopal Church Association.

SEC. 4. Be it further enacted, etc., That the board of trustees be invested with power, as it is hereby made a part of its duty, to pass such by laws from time to time as may be necessary for the proper government of said association.

SEC. 5. Be it further enacted, etc., That this act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

(Signed) O. H. BREWSTER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.
(Signed) P. B. S. PINCHBACK,
Lieutenant Governor and President of the Senate.
Approved July 1, 1872.
(Signed) H. C. WARMOTH,
Governor of the State of Louisiana.
A true copy:
F. J. HERRON,
Secretary of State.

No. 80.

AN ACT

Relative to dispensing with the publication of legal and judicial advertisements in the French language in the parish of Natchitoches.

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana in General Assembly convened, That the publication of all legal and judicial advertisements in the French language in the parish of Natchitoches be dispensed with, unless otherwise directed by the parties litigant, and it shall be lawful that all legal and judicial advertisements be published in the English language only in said parish of Natchitoches, unless otherwise directed by the parties litigant.

SEC. 2. Be it further enacted, etc., That all laws contrary to or inconsistent with this act be and the same are hereby repealed.

SEC. 3. Be it further enacted, etc., That this act shall take effect from and after its passage.

(Signed) O. H. BREWSTER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.
(Signed) P. B. S. PINCHBACK,
Lieutenant Governor and President of the Senate.
Approved May 18, 1872.
(Signed) H. C. WARMOTH,
Governor of the State of Louisiana.
A true copy:
F. J. HERRON,
Secretary of State.

No. 90.

AN ACT

For the relief of Mrs. P. J. Norwood, and for other purposes.

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana in General Assembly convened, That the sum of eighty-four dollars be and the same is hereby appropriated out of any moneys in the State treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the purpose of paying her for the services rendered by her deceased husband as clerk in the office of registration in the year A. D. 1868, in the parish of Avoyelles, the same to be paid by the State Treasurer, upon the warrant of the Auditor of Public Accounts; provided, she first proves her claims to said money to the satisfaction of the State register of voters, who, on approving the same, shall issue an order upon the State Auditor therefor.

SEC. 2. Be it further enacted, etc., That this act shall take effect from and after its passage, and all laws and parts of laws inconsistent therewith be and the same are hereby repealed.

(Signed) O. H. BREWSTER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.
(Signed) P. B. S. PINCHBACK,
Lieutenant Governor and President of the Senate.
Approved July 1, 1872.
(Signed) H. C. WARMOTH,
Governor of the State of Louisiana.
A true copy:
F. J. HERRON,
Secretary of State.

No. 86.

AN ACT

To fix the terms of the district court in the Fourteenth Judicial District, designating certain weeks of said terms for the trial of civil cases, and certain weeks for the trial of criminal cases, and providing for the drawing and summoning of juries for said terms.

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana in General Assembly convened, That the terms of the district court in the Fourteenth Judicial District are hereby fixed, and shall commence as follows, to wit: For the parish of Ouachita, on the second Mondays of March and September; for the parish of Richland, on the third Mondays of April and October; for the parish of Morehouse, on the third Mondays of May and November.

SEC. 2. Be it further enacted, etc., That the first two weeks of each term shall be devoted exclusively to the transaction of the business on the civil docket of the court, to the business of the grand jury, and to the filing of criminal informations and the orders thereon; no other proceedings on the criminal docket of the court shall be had during the first two weeks.

SEC. 3. Be it further enacted, etc., That the remaining weeks of each term shall be devoted to the transaction and disposal of the criminal business of the court, and to the trial of civil jury cases. During said remaining weeks no proceeding shall be had in any civil case, unless an order for the trial of such case by a jury shall have been made previous to the third week; provided, that in all cases judgments may be signed, and motions for new trials and motions for appeals may be made and disposed of during said remaining weeks; and, provided further, that, by special permission of the court first obtained, together with consent of parties, proceedings may be had in any other case during said remaining weeks.

SEC. 4. Be it further enacted, etc., That, in the manner provided by law, two juries shall be drawn for each of said terms of court, to be designated, as the "first jury" and the "second jury." The first jury shall be summoned to attend on the first day of the term. From the first jury the grand jury shall be selected and drawn in the manner provided by law. The remaining jurors of the first jury shall then be discharged till the third Monday of the term, when they shall again attend, and shall serve for the third week. The second jury shall be summoned to attend on the fourth Monday of the term, and shall serve for the fourth week, and as much longer as they may be needed. Any of the first jury who may be impanneled on the trial of a case shall be retained until the termination of said case. All objections or exceptions to the formation, construction, drawing, or summoning of said juries shall be filed on the first day of the term, and not afterward; and if the juries should be set aside a new first jury shall be immediately drawn and summoned for the second Monday, and a new second jury for the fourth Monday of the term, and the court shall proceed. Juries drawn for the first term of court under this act shall be legal, without regard to the time when drawn, if in other respects legal.

SEC. 5. Be it further enacted, etc., That all laws or parts of laws conflicting with this act are hereby repealed so far as they conflict, and that this act shall take effect from and after its passage.

(Signed) O. H. BREWSTER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.
(Signed) P. B. S. PINCHBACK,
Lieutenant Governor and President of the Senate.
Approved June 14, 1872.
(Signed) H. C. WARMOTH,
Governor of the State of Louisiana.
A true copy:
F. J. HERRON,
Secretary of State.

No. 94.

AN ACT

To provide for the construction of a shell road in the parish of Jefferson by the police jury of the left bank of said parish, and for the payment thereof; for the keeping of the same in repair, and to authorize said police jury to levy a special tax for said purpose.

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana in General Assembly convened, That it shall be the duty of the police jury of the left bank, parish of Jefferson, and it is hereby authorized and empowered to pass and adopt, within ten days from the passage of this act, the necessary ordinances and resolutions for the construction within one year from the adjudication of the contract, of a shell road extending along the Metairie ridge in said parish of Jefferson, from the New Orleans canal west as far as the Labarre road, and at the option of said police jury along the Labarre road to the river Mississippi; said road shall be in all respects a first-class shell road, and shall be built in accordance with the specifications to be furnished by the surveyor of the parish; and it shall be the duty of the police jury to cause the surveyor of said parish, or of some other, in case there be no such officer, to furnish the necessary plans, lines, grades, levels, curves, etc., and to take the general superintendence, in accordance with the specifications furnished, and the cost of this shall be assumed by the contractors.

SEC. 2. Be it further enacted, etc., That the cost of the construction of said shell road shall be borne in equal proportions, one-half each by the front proprietors bordering on said road, pro rata, and the said police jury of the left bank, parish of Jefferson, and the proportion of the front proprietors shall remain a lien and privilege superior to all other liens and privileges upon the property fronting on said road in favor of the contractors thereof, until fully paid, by recording the bills for the same, duly certified by the surveyor of said parish, in the office of the recorder of said parish.

SEC. 3. Be it further enacted, etc., That it shall be the duty of said police jury of the left bank, parish of Jefferson, within ten days from the passage of this act, to advertise for ten days in the official papers of the parishes of Jefferson and Orleans for proposals, to be sealed and directed to said police jury, and to be opened by them in open and public meeting of said police jury on a day to be named in said advertisement, when said police jury shall proceed to adjudicate the contract to build said road to the lowest bidder, and shall proceed, in such form as said police jury shall determine, to make a formal contract in accordance with the plans and specifications, and said lowest proposal, with said lowest bidder, and may require of such lowest bidder such security as said police jury may think proper for the faithful performance of the contract within such time as the said police jury and said contractors may agree, being understood that this shall not exceed one year.

SEC. 4. Be it further enacted, etc., That from and after the completion of said shell road hereinbefore provided for, it shall be the duty of said police jury, during the month of December of each and every year, to appropriate a sufficient sum of money out of its treasury to keep said road in repair during the current year, which sum shall not be appropriated to any other purpose.

SEC. 5. Be it further enacted, etc., That upon the completion of said shell road, and said completion having been duly certified to, according to the provisions of this act, it shall be the duty of said police jury of the left bank, parish of Jefferson, to at once pay to the builders of said road, or otherwise settle with them, as both parties to the contract may agree, the proportion of the police jury being one-half the total cost thereof; and should there not be sufficient funds in the treasury, the police jury are hereby authorized to levy a special tax sufficient to pay the sum required upon all the taxable property in the left bank, parish of Jefferson, to be equally assessed according to the last assessment made before the levying of such special tax; and upon the collection of such special tax, which shall be immediately proceeded with, said police jury shall pay its proportion of the cost of the shell road herein provided for.

SEC. 6. Be it further enacted, etc., That all laws or parts of laws contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this act are hereby repealed.

SEC. 7. Be it further enacted, etc., That this act shall take effect from and after its passage.

(Signed) O. H. BREWSTER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.
(Signed) P. B. S. PINCHBACK,
Lieutenant Governor and President of the Senate.
A true copy:
J. W. FAIRFAX,
Assistant Secretary of State.

Received in the office of Secretary of State August 6, 1872.

The foregoing act having been presented to the Governor of the State of Louisiana for his approval, and not having been returned by him to the house of the General Assembly in which it originated within the time prescribed by the constitution of the State of Louisiana, has become a law without his approval.

No 89.

AN ACT

To incorporate the Young Men's Christian Association of New Orleans, and to exempt the property of the same from taxation.

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana in General Assembly convened, That Richard H. Brown, James L. Dunnica, Marshall J. Smith, James N. Beadles, William G. Coyle, Edward C. Palmer, William C. Shepherd, Moses M. Greenwood, William H. Foster, John S. Walton, Thomas I. Dix, Charles Clinton, Henry F. Given, Frederick J. Odendahl and A. J. Tardey, Jr., and their associates and successors, be and are hereby specially made a body corporate and politic for the improvement of the spiritual, intellectual and social condition of young men and the promotion of Christian works in the city of New Orleans, under the name and style of the Young Men's Christian Association of New Orleans, and under this name shall exist for the term of ninety-nine years, and shall be capable, for the purposes enumerated in this act, and for all other purposes enumerated in this act, of buying, selling and mortgaging all kinds of real estate and other kinds of property, of suing and being sued in any of the courts of law and equity of this State, of having a common seal, and of altering it at pleasure, to acquire, have and hold estate, real, personal and mixed; and said association shall be capable in law of inheriting, receiving, holding, selling and transferring all manner of property, whether by donation, bequest, devise, or in any other manner or form, from any or all persons, body or bodies corporate in or out of this State; provided that the value thereof does not exceed five hundred thousand dollars.

SEC. 2. Be it further enacted, etc., That the proper authorities of said corporation for holding and managing its property shall be a board of trustees, who shall be elected by the "active members" of said association, all of whom shall be members in good and regular standing in some Protestant Evangelical church in the city of New Orleans, and each of the Evangelical Christian denominations of the city of New Orleans shall be entitled to and, if desiring it, shall have a representative in said board of trustees, but no denomination shall have more than four representatives therein.

SEC. 3. Be it further enacted, etc., That for the present, and until their successors are elected, as hereinafter provided, the following named persons shall constitute the board of trustees, viz: Richard H. Brown, James L. Dunnica, Marshall J. Smith, James N. Beadles, William G. Coyle, Edward C. Palmer, William C. Shepherd, Moses M. Greenwood, William H. Foster, John S. Walton, Thomas I. Dix, Charles Clinton, Henry F. Given, Frederick J. Odendahl and A. J. Tardey, Jr.; that the said trustees shall be divided into three classes, as follows: Richard H. Brown, James L. Dunnica, James N. Beadles and William G. Coyle shall compose the first class, and shall hold office for three years; Edward C. Palmer, William C. Shepherd, Moses M. Greenwood, Jr., William H. Foster and John S. Walton shall compose the second class, and shall hold office for two years; Thomas I. Dix, Charles Clinton, Henry F. Given, Frederick J. Odendahl and A. J. Tardey, Jr., shall compose the third class, and shall hold office for one year. The term of office of said trustees shall commence on the first Tuesday of February, 1872, and shall continue as herein provided. Five trustees shall be elected annually thereafter by the life and active members of the association, at an annual meeting to be held on the first Tuesday in February of each year succeeding, to fill the places of the trustees whose terms of office shall expire that year, and the trustees so elected shall hold office for three years from the date of the election, and until their successors in office are elected. Whenever any vacancy by death or otherwise shall occur in said board of trustees, the same shall be filled by a majority vote of the remaining trustees; provided, that the party so chosen to fill the vacancy shall be of the same religious denomination as the one whose place he is elected to fill. Said board of trustees shall, from time to time, elect from among their number a president, secretary and treasurer, and a majority of said board of trustees shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, but in matters of sale, transfer or mortgage of the real estate of the association, there must be present at the meeting of the board one or more representatives from each religious denomination which may have members in said association, and said representative or representatives of each religious denomination shall cast one vote only, and the majority must be three-fourths to order said sale, or transfer, or mortgage.

SEC. 4. Be it further enacted, etc., That the members of said association shall, from time to time, as they deem best, make, adopt, alter and amend a constitution, and such by-laws, rules and regulations, and do everything useful for the good government, preservation and support of said corporation not repugnant to the constitution and laws of the United States, to the constitution and laws of this State, or to this act of incorporation.

SEC. 5. Be it further enacted, etc., That the domicile of said association shall be at the rooms of the corporation in the city of New Orleans, and the president of the board of trustees shall be authorized to receive citations in all cases of suits instituted against the association.

SEC. 6. Be it further enacted, etc., That in consideration of the work that this association proposes to do, in providing free reading rooms and a public library for the young men of New Orleans, the property of said association shall forever be free from taxation, State or municipal.

(Signed) O. H. BREWSTER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.
(Signed) P. B. S. PINCHBACK,
Lieutenant Governor and President of the Senate.
A true copy:
F. J. HERRON,
Secretary of State.

The foregoing act, received at my office July 1, 1872, having been presented to the Governor of the State of Louisiana for his approval, and not having been returned by him to the house of the General Assembly in which it originated within the time prescribed by the constitution of the State of Louisiana, has become a law without his approval.

No. 91.

AN ACT

For the relief of W. H. Vaughn.

WHEREAS, W. H. Vaughn, State tax collector of the parish of Morehouse, has overpaid the amount of taxes charged to him for the year 1866, to the amount of four hundred dollars, as shown per certificates of the Auditor herewith annexed; therefore,

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana in General Assembly convened, That the sum of four hundred dollars be and the same is hereby appropriated out of any moneys in the treasury, not otherwise appropriated, in payment thereof, and that this act go into effect from and after its passage.

(Signed) O. H. BREWSTER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.
(Signed) P. B. S. PINCHBACK,
Lieutenant Governor and President of the Senate.
Approved July 1, 1872.
(Signed) H. C. WARMOTH,
Governor of the State of Louisiana.
A true copy:
F. J. HERRON,
Secretary of State.

No. 56.

AN ACT

To incorporate the Louisiana Workingmen's Homestead Association.

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana in General Assembly convened, That Alfred Jones, William H. Green, Green Curtis, L. Knight, William Wallace, L. Kenner, S. Haywood, Charles Vigers, John L. Brower, James Lewis, Thomas Isabelle, and all others who may associate with them from time to time, are hereby created a body corporate, under the name and title of the Louisiana Workingmen's Homestead Association. The domicile of said body shall be in the city of New Orleans, and shall enjoy under this title perpetual succession, and be as such capable to sue and be sued, to plead and be impleaded, to acquire and possess real and personal property, and to dispose of the same; to make and adopt such constitution and by-laws not inconsistent with the laws of this State and of the United States; to alter and amend or modify the same at pleasure.

SEC. 2. Be it further enacted, etc., That the object of this association shall be to secure by purchase or donation, land or lots of ground in this State, and the same shall be distributed in the following manner: In shares of one hundred dollars each, to be paid in five installments of twenty dollars on each share.

SEC. 3. Be it further enacted, etc., That no member of this association shall hold more than five shares, and each member, on each and every share of stock held by him, shall pay to the treasurer the sum of twenty dollars on each and every share held by such member. Any member desiring more shares within the number limited than he at first held, shall pay a sum in addition equal to the amount already paid by members holding the number of shares desired by him, with the interest which has accrued thereon up to the time of his application, so as to make his entire payments pro rata with the others.

SEC. 4. Be it further enacted, etc., That the officers of the association shall consist of a president, vice president, secretary and treasurer, with five other persons, who together shall constitute a board of directors, six of whom shall constitute a quorum; and the above named persons shall be chosen annually by ballot. The said officers and board of directors to be possessed of all powers and duties incident to like officers in similar corporations. The president of said association shall be the president of the board of directors, and as such shall have the right to sue and be sued in behalf of said association. The board of directors shall have the right to fix such compensation as they may deem necessary for such officers, subject to the approval of the association at a stated meeting duly convened for that purpose.

SEC. 5. Be it further enacted, etc., That this association shall meet quarterly, on the first Mondays of January, April, July and October of each year, and oftener if called together by the board, and notice of such quarterly or special meeting shall be published three days in a paper having the largest circulation in the city of New Orleans.

SEC. 6. Be it further enacted, etc., That when land has been acquired and it is proposed to distribute the same, the board of directors shall cause the same to be equally divided among the members of the association, and shall lay the plan of distribution thereof before a quarterly or special meeting, duly announced, in order that the plan may be ratified and carried into effect, or such other substituted as may seem best to the association.

SEC. 7. Be it further enacted, etc., That this act shall take effect from and after its passage.

(Signed) O. H. BREWSTER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.
(Signed) P. B. S. PINCHBACK,
Lieutenant Governor and President of the Senate.
Approved April 23, 1872.
(Signed) H. C. WARMOTH,
Governor of the State of Louisiana.
A true copy:
F. J. HERRON,
Secretary of State.

No. 84.

AN ACT

To incorporate the Springfield and Blood River Railroad Company, Livingston parish, State of Louisiana.

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana in General Assembly convened, That Peter H. Kemp, Thomas Benton Kemp and Simpson Kemp, and their associates and successors, are hereby created a body corporate under the style and title of the Springfield and Blood River Railroad Company, and under such name they shall have a common seal, sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, and possess all and severally the rights, powers, privileges and incidents belonging to similar corporations by the laws of Louisiana; and this charter shall remain in force for the period of twenty-five years from and after the passage of this act.

SEC. 2. Be it further enacted, etc., That the said company are hereby authorized and empowered to lay out, locate, contruct, equip and thereafter own, maintain and enjoy a railroad from Springfield to Blood river in Livingston parish, Louisiana, by such route as the company may deem most direct and practicable.

SEC. 3. Be it further enacted, etc., That for the purposes herein set forth said company shall have the right of way to the distance of fifty feet on each side of the outer line of said railroad belonging to the State of Louisiana, and it shall acquire right of way through private land by gift or by expropriation as provided by law.

SEC. 4. Be it further enacted, etc., That this act shall take effect from and after its passage.

(Signed) O. H. BREWSTER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.
(Signed) P. B. S. PINCHBACK,
Lieutenant Governor and President of the Senate.
Approved May 4, 1872.
(Signed) H. C. WARMOTH,
Governor of the State of Louisiana.
A true copy:
F. J. HERRON,
Secretary of State.

No. 93.

AN ACT

To incorporate the city of Natchitoches, and provide for the government of the same.

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana in General Assembly convened, That all that portion of land within the following boundaries, to wit: bounded on the east by Red river, including the left bank of said river; on the south by the lower line of the land belonging to Auguste Martin; on the north by a line beginning at Red river, and running due west across the highest point of Badin's Hill to Bayou Ides or Yaco; thence on the west by a line running due south until it intersects the southern line, shall be known and distinguished by the name of the city of Natchitoches.

SEC. 2. Be it further enacted, etc., That to provide for the government of the city of Natchitoches, there shall be elected on the first Monday in May of every year, by the qualified voters of said corporation from among themselves, one mayor and six councilmen, with the powers and duties hereinafter set forth.

SEC. 3. Be it further enacted, etc., That the election of the officers created by the second section of this act shall be held at the courthouse in said city, and be previously notified to the inhabitants by public advertisement at the door of the courthouse and two other public places in said city, which notice shall be given by the mayor of said city, ten days before holding the election; and said election shall commence at six o'clock A. M. and close at six o'clock P. M. of the same day, and the said election shall be conducted in all respects according to the laws of the State regulating elections, and the returns to be made and commissions issued according to the election laws of the State, which may be in force at such time.

SEC. 4. Be it further enacted, etc., That in case of a tie vote at said election, or in case of the death or resignation of any of the officers mentioned in the third section of this act the clerk of the district court or his deputy shall order an election in the manner set forth in the third section of this act, and a plurality of votes at all elections shall be sufficient.

SEC. 5. Be it further enacted, etc., That on receiving their commissions of election the mayor and councilmen shall meet and organize themselves into a body to be known as the "mayor and council of Natchitoches," and shall proceed to elect one suitable person to be assessor and collector of the city taxes and licenses, and to elect a treasurer of the city of Natchitoches, who shall be ex officio secretary of the city council.

SEC. 6. Be it further enacted, etc., That the Mayor shall preside at all meetings of city council, shall call meetings of the council when he deems necessary, shall approve all laws, ordinances and resolutions of the city council, shall vote as other members of the council upon all questions, and shall be vested with the same powers as are now exercised by the recorders of the city of New Orleans. He shall be committing magistrate, with full power to examine and commit in all cases arising under the laws of the State, for all crimes, offenses and misdemeanors against the State in the same manner and to the same extent as justices of the peace now or hereafter may do. He is hereby authorized and empowered to examine, try and sentence persons for violation of the laws and ordinances of the corporation of the city of Natchitoches, and offenses against the same; and shall hold his court daily, from nine o'clock A. M., until three o'clock P. M., or longer if necessary. All fines collected by said mayor's court under the provisions of this act, shall be paid into the treasury of the city of Natchitoches monthly.

SEC. 7. Be it further enacted, etc., That the mayor shall hold his office for the term of one year from the first Monday in May, eighteen hundred and seventy-two, or until his successor shall have been elected and duly qualified, and he shall be entitled to and receive an annual salary to be fixed by the city council, which shall be neither increased nor diminished during the term of office in which it shall be established.

SEC. 8. Be it further enacted, etc., That the mayor of the city of Natchitoches is hereby authorized to appoint one court officer, who shall be at all times subject to the orders of the mayor; and said court officer shall be empowered and authorized to serve warrants, summons, search warrants, attachments and mittimus issued by the mayor in offenses against the State and city incorporation, and shall receive the same fees for such services as are by law allowed to constables, to be paid by the city of Natchitoches.

SEC. 9. Be it further enacted, etc., That that the mayor and city council, and their duly elected and qualified successors in office, shall have perpetual succession; that they shall be capable of instituting and defending suits in all courts of this State, under the title of "The Mayor and City Council of Natchitoches," and that citations and other legal process shall be served on the mayor.

SEC. 10. Be it further enacted, etc., That the mayor and city council shall have full power and authority to make and pass such laws and ordinances as are necessary and proper; first, to regulate and preserve the peace and good order of the city, and provide for and maintain its cleanliness and salubrity, in a manner not inconsistent with the laws of this State; second, to adopt and use a common seal; third, to purchase, hold and convey, alienate any estate, real or personal, to accept any gift, grant or inheritance of property for public or charitable purposes, to erect school, market and fire engine houses, and such other buildings as may be for the public benefit, and to build a city workhouse; fourth, to establish a quarantine for the protection of the city against contagious diseases and epidemics; fifth, to levy and collect such annual and special taxes on the real and personal, movable and immovable property of the city of Natchitoches as shall be deemed necessary by them; provided, that said taxes shall in no one year exceed two per centum on the assessed value of the real and personal estate within said city for the year for which the assessment of taxes is made; sixth, to impose an annual license tax on trades, professions and callings, said license to expire on the thirty-first day of December in the year in which it was obtained, and which license tax shall be due and payable at the office of the city treasurer from the first day of January to the twenty-eighth day of February inclusive; seventh, to fix the amount of bonds to be given by the city officers from whom bonds are required; eighth, to organize, appoint and uniform and commission a police force; and to appoint as many police officers as may be necessary; to fix their salaries and compensation of all officers and others appointed or elected by them; to remove for sufficient cause any of the appointees or officers elected by themselves, and to define the duties of all such officers and appointees; ninth, to survey and lay out streets, public squares, to regulate and make improvements to the streets and squares and other public property, and provide for lighting and watering the same; to construct a wharf within the corporate limits, and fix the wharfage dues thereon; to order and direct the dishing, filling, opening, widening and continuing of any of the streets, and if for the above or other public purposes the land of any private person or body corporate is necessary to be had, to purchase the same at a reasonable price, or to cause the same to be expropriated according to the mode and formalities prescribed by existing laws upon the subject, to regulate the proportions and to make and repair all common drains, public roads, levees, causeways and bridges, to determine the completion and pavement of the streets, to fix the squaring, and to prevent encroachment upon the stopping and obstructing of the streets, public squares, sidewalks, levees, public roads or river banks of the city of Natchitoches, and to order any object, whatsoever may be its value, which may incumber the said places or prevent and embarass the free use of the same, to be removed or sold for whom it may concern, in the same manner and after such advertisement as shall be required by ordinance; tenth, to clean the banks of Cane river, or other streams within the limits of the city, and reopen such ancient and natural drains as have been obstructed by the owners of adjacent land; eleventh, to determine what animals shall run at large within the corporate limits, and prohibit others from doing so, to impound all animals running at large in violation of the laws and ordinances of the city, to fix the penalties and fines which the owners thereof shall pay before the animal so impounded shall be delivered up, and to pass laws and ordinances for the sale of said animals, after three days' notice in a newspaper, or by posting; twelfth, to abate nuisances, suppress houses of ill-fame, and cause the arrest and punishment of vagrants; thirteenth, to enact laws and ordinances, and to make appropriations for the purpose of building a city workhouse, and providing for the government of the same; fourteenth, to pass laws and ordinances imposing a fine upon all persons who shall conduct any business or pursue any occupation for which a license is to be collected, whenever such persons shall conduct such business or pursue said occupation without previously obtaining such license; fifteenth, to regulate the police of theatres, public balls, taverns, places for shows and exhibitions, houses of public entertainment, saloons and shops for retailing liquors, and to order the same to be closed whenever the public safety and tranquillity shall require it, and impose such duties and regulations upon persons keeping such places as they may deem necessary and proper; sixteenth, to regulate the proper government of carts and drays, carriages, omnibuses and other vehicles of every description; seventeenth, to establish market places, and adopt regulations by ordinances governing said market houses and places.

SEC. 11. Be it further enacted, etc., That the mayor and city council of Natchitoches shall succeed to, and be invested with, all the rights, property and possessions of the town of Natchitoches, as previously incorporated.

SEC. 12. Be it further enacted, etc., That the mayor and four councilmen, and no less number, shall constitute a quorum to transact business, but to levy any tax, toll or impost, or to fix any license, or to make any appropriation, it shall require a vote of the majority of the councilmen and mayor, and the affirmative and negative of each vote shall be recorded on the minutes.

SEC. 13. Be it further enacted, etc., That whenever the owner of the property in front of which a sidewalk, banquette or ditch shall have been ordered to be made, filled up, cleaned out or repaired, shall fail to do so in the time required by the laws and ordinances of the corporation, the mayor and city council shall cause it to be done at the expense of the owner of the property, and the said corporation shall have a special privilege on said property to secure the payment so due, which privelege shall hold until the corporation be paid; and in case such owner shall be absent from or have no authorized agent living in the corporation or parish of Natchitoches, or be unknown, the corporation shall have the right to proceed *in rem* against the property in the manner pointed out by article 292 and seq. of the Code of Practice; and the corporation shall be entitled to eight per cent interest upon the amount paid.

SEC. 14. Be it further enacted, etc., That in case of the absence or inability of the mayor to attend, the city council shall elect one of their number mayor pro tempore.

SEC. 15. Be it further enacted, etc., That the treasurer shall be ex-officio secretary of the city council, and as such he shall keep minutes of the proceedings of each meeting, and he shall read all laws, ordinances and resolutions, and all other proceedings of the city council; he shall file all the bonds of the officers of the city and record them in a separate book, and certified copies of said bonds and of all laws and ordinances shall be evidence in all courts of this State; he shall furnish, free of costs, to the mayor of the city certified copies of all laws and ordinances which impose a fine or penalty, or both, for their infraction, and he shall do and perform such other duties as may be imposed upon him by the ordinances of the city.

SEC. 16. Be it further enacted, etc., That as treasurer he shall keep a correct account of all moneys received and disbursed, he shall keep separate and apart from each other all moneys received by taxation on real and personal estates, licenses, fines and forfeitures, and he shall exhibit his account whenever required to do so by the mayor and city council.

SEC. 17. Be it further enacted, etc., That it shall be the duty of the assessor and collector to assess the taxes on real and personal estate in the city, in the manner pointed out by the laws and ordinances of the city, and to collect the same.

SEC. 18. Be it further enacted, etc., That for the purpose of levying and collecting taxes and licenses, the mayor and city council are hereby invested with full power to pass all laws not inconsistent with the constitution of the United States or of this State, to compel the payment, by compulsory process, of all taxes or licenses which may be due, and they are hereby authorized to confer on the assessor and collector power sufficient to carry into effect the laws and ordinances pertaining to the levying and collecting of such taxes and licenses.

SEC. 19. Be it further enacted, etc., That from and after the passage of this act the powers of the police jury of the parish of Natchitoches shall cease and determine within said city of Natchitoches, and the mayor and the city council shall possess all the powers within said corporation which have been heretofore exercised by the police jury, except so far as it relates to public buildings and property within said city which belong to said parish of Natchitoches, and that the inhabitants and property within the corporate limits of said city of Natchitoches shall be exempt from the payment of all parish taxes.

SEC. 20. Be it further enacted, etc., That all the laws and ordinances of the mayor and city council shall have effect two days after publication in the official journal of the parish, or after certified copies of them are posted at three public places in said town.

SEC. 21. Be it further enacted, etc., That no inconvenience may arise in the administration of the affairs of the city of Natchitoches in consequence of a failure or negl