...TION.

...dinance Re... ...mittee on ...visions.

...ted Debate on the ... Vote on the State ...ajority and Mi... ...Reports Both ...Rejected.

...ppositions Offered and De... ...o Conclusion Yet Reached.

MONDAY, June 30.

...tion was called to order at 10 ...dent Wiltz in the chair and ...embers present.

...on State Lands submitted ...ordered to be printed.

...PROVISIONS.

...e day being the con... ...the Committee on ...lied up.

...dopted, as follows:

...all hold any office, ...pall, or shall be per... ...on, or act as a juror, ...shall have been con... ...forgery, bribery or ...by imprisonment in ...shall be under inter...

...he General Assembly ...ntering upon the duties ...ke the following oath or ...

...y swear (or affirm) that I ...stitution and laws of the ...e constitution and laws of ...will faithfully and impar... ...perform all the duties in... ...—, according to the best ...derstanding. So help me ...

...1:

...f government shall be and ...f Baton Rouge.

...sembly, at its first session ...of this constitution, shall ...propriations for the repair ...e and for the transfer of the ...ate to Baton Rouge; and the ...aton Rouge is hereby author... ...tificates of indebtedness, in ...form, to cover the subscrip... ...dered by the citizens and city ...y to ...on repairing the Cap... ...d, the city of Baton ...e State treasury said ...he contract for repairs ...ally closed.

...man of the committee, ...of the second article, ...e committee had only ...f the people in advising ...d be removed to Baton ...w constitution the sal... ...had been so reduced as ...t impossible for them to ...

...moved to strike out Baton ...ge of the article and to ...

...n said that New Orleans ...l as well as the political ...It was more central ...g to its great acces... ...and railroads con... ...xpense of remov... ...hat the State in ...ld n... ...that m... ...e more exposed that it removed, so that the attent... ...State, and less ...n New Orleans than development of bo... ...n Rouge, the speaker political schemes ... ...as naturally corrupt it ...re he lived—he would ...tunity to do wrong. On ...he was a pure man the in... ...rleans would not tempt him.

...e Jastremski addressed the Con... ...e follows:

...ding in the patriotism and the fidelity of ...embers of this Convention to the public ...lfare, regardless of sectional or personal ...considerations, I approach the subject now ...pending before this honorable body with the ...firm belief that the deliberations upon the ...proposition looking to the restoration of the ...capital to Baton Rouge will result in the ratifi... ...cation of the popular verdict given at three dif... ...ferent periods in our State's history, recog... ...nized already by the majority of your Commit... ...tee on General Provisions.

Mr. President, it must be well known that as early as 1845 distinguished men who composed the Convention of that year—viewing the condition of affairs as then existing—when it must be conceded that the standard of morality stood as high as it is now, decided that it was eminently wise to follow the almost unanimous example, which might well be termed a principle, that exists throughout the States of this Union, that the capital of Louisiana should not be located nearer than sixty miles from the city of New Orleans, our great commercial metropolis.

Despite the plea urged by the opponents of the measure, that the new constitution would fail to obtain the approval of the people in the event that this clause was inserted therein, the contrary was shown, and that instrument was duly ratified.

After the Convention of 1852 this question was submitted separately to the decision of the people, and the result was that Baton Rouge was selected as the proper place whereat to maintain the capital by an overwhelming majority vote.

In November last (1878), when public sentiment was against the adoption of the proposed amendments to the constitution of 1868, in order that the present Convention might be called to assemble; and when, in furtherance of that desire, twenty of these amendments were defeated by immense majorities—one, only one, Mr. President, that decreeing the restoration of the capital to Baton Rouge, was adopted by a majority of several thousand votes, as shown by the report of the honorable Secretary of State, which appears in the records of the Senate. Thus it is unmistakably shown that the people desired by that method to make known their will in this particular to the Convention.

Beside these oft-repeated manifestations of the popular will given at the ballot-box, we have the declaration of the two political parties meeting in our State, those of the Republicans, assembled in nominating convention in 1872, those of the united opposition parties, in convention assembled at Baton Rouge, a portion of whom gave their pledge that they would restore the capital to that city!

...y recall that it was in 1864, when ...en. Banks's army were over... ...nstitutional Convention of ...anized in this city among ...e days—whose patriot... ...erior to their discre... ...that they absolutely ...in order to ...e Hon. ...rest ...

the demon of destruction in a Christmas carol, consigned the beautiful structure to the merciless flames. The representatives of our State would nevermore assemble within those precincts, oftimes honored by the presence of its noblest sons. The decree, however, has not been sealed, for the towered walls stand there, scarred by Farragut's destructive missiles—wounded only, but not dead! thank God. Louisiana's capital, like a thing of life, overlooking the broad bosom of the great river that carried along its base its restless billows to the sea, awaits the return of Louisiana's onward march, that its wounds may be closed, and thus become a commemorative monument of that epoch, when the patriotic men of our beloved State, in convention assembled, bridged over the "bloody chasm," and framed such a constitution as ought to control the destinies of this people.

We now come to real figures and to the matter of the cost of restoration. The building proper originally cost the State the sum of $365,000. The grounds, which are the gift of the city of Baton Rouge, represent twenty thousand more, and the iron railing that encircles them, which is to-day in a perfect state of preservation, an additional sum of $40,000. I will not speak of the cost of the terracing, of the rare plants and shrubs, of the brick walks laid in cement, of the basin and other embellishments, which in the main are well preserved.

A low estimate would render this property, when restored, a value to the State of at least $400,000. To effect this, positive estimates, which I have submitted to the consideration of the Committee on General Provisions, show that the sum of $95,000 will be sufficient to apply the necessary repairs. Of this amount the city of Baton Rouge proposes to donate the sum of $35,000, thus leaving a balance only of $60,000 to be supplied by the State.

To obtain this sum we have the building that we now occupy, which, although it is in bad condition, ought to bring this amount if it were offered for sale by direction of the next General Assembly. In default of this resource there exists the proceeds of a tax originally levied for the purpose of paying for this building—now fully paid for. This tax still being collected will, it is estimated, bring into the treasury for this year alone a net amount of $96,000, all deductions being made for collection, etc. I do not embrace in this estimate the proceeds from this tax contained in the amounts due by delinquents for previous years.

I am told that the balances accruing therefrom are hereafter to go to the general fund; now, Mr. President, it cannot be denied that this tax was levied for State-House purposes. The people have paid it and are continuing so to do. Who can say that, having decreed that the capital should be returned to Baton Rouge, *their money*, raised for such purposes, should not be applied to carry out their will, rather than it should be placed in the general fund, for which it was not intended!

Mr. President, beyond the unanswerable reason that the people desire this restoration, there are, in the words of the honorable chairman of the Committee on General Provisions, yet fresh in my memory, "other than mere monetary considerations; the peace, the welfare of Louisiana for scores of years to come are to be considered." I believe that it is a measure imperatively demanded by the public interests throughout the State. It is not that corrupt men or corrupt influences will not reach the governing power at Baton Rouge. But what I do claim is that the corrupting influence is are proportionately greater in a large and attractive city like New Orleans. It is my sincere belief that we owe it to the people to make the transfer. [He went on to show that legislation would be freer in an interior city. The general Assembly would not be exposed to the tumults and popular excitements following every important question of State.] For instance, he added, what would have been the condition of affairs in Louisiana if the Legislature had been sitting in this city during the Know Nothing excitement of 1855-6? And such disturbing causes are likely to arise at any moment.

I need scarcely add, Mr. President, anything more to the powerful arguments so ably advanced by the distinguished representative from the parish of Morehouse. I will say, however, in support, that the experience of the past shows that since the capital has been at New Orleans, we can but point to a long unbroken series of misfortunes and troubles. The Crescent City during those years had ceased to look to the extension of her commerce. St. Louis, Chicago, Memphis and other cities penetrated with their railway trains and steamers the very heart of the countries tributary to the trade of this city. The White, the Arkansas, the Yazoo, the Ouachita and the Red rivers even were plucked of their golden harvests, while the merchants and business men of New Orleans had turned their attention toward the political schemes, even the speculations in the State's paper along Carondelet.

Mr. President, your intelligent and liberal-minded merchants see that the capital brings a ...sures to this city, and a large number of ...community may be directed to ...development of both ... ...route from Baton Rouge to ...1861, the railroad—some forty miles only—had been surveyed. The contract to purchase the iron had been made. Through that way the capital would be within three to four hours' run of the metropolis. The Grosse Tete Railroad had reached to within thirty miles of Opelousas. A line of palatial steamers was in operation between New Orleans and Bayou Sara.

That section of the State comprising the parishes of Iberville, East and West Feliciana, Livingston, St. Helena, Pointe Coupee, with East and West Baton Rouge, containing a population of nearly eighty thousand souls, were beginning to feel that the location of the capital within their centre was attracting population and adding to their facilities of communication, thus enhancing the value of the lands and otherwise aiding in the rapid development of that portion of the State.

The same results would now follow. Through the New Orleans Pacific Railway Baton Rouge will be connected with this city and with the Southern parishes by its connection with Morgan's Louisiana and Texas road. The first named line will also place the capital in direct rail communication with Shreveport and the Red river valley, while other contemplated lines will have in the adoption of this measure a strong incentive offered them to proceed to their completion.

The reduction in the salaries of public officials adds to the necessity of removing the capital to an interior city, where the cost of living is much lower than it is in this large and attractive metropolis.

Mr. President, I fully represent the sentiments of my constituents when I assert that no section of the State is more friendly than theirs to the growth, the greatness and the happiness of the Crescent City and its generous and gallant population. Eve y conceivable tie welds our destinies with those of this grand city. The representatives of our section have always been found ready to vote necessary credits and withstand the burdens thereby imposed, so that your Jackson road, your Mobile road, your Opelousas and Texas road, your New Orleans Pacific road, and in fact every public enterprise tending to the development of the resources of any and every part of our commonwealth.

When the seat of government was at Baton Rouge, that little city was but a small village. Under the shadow of the classical and proud edifice that the wisdom and patriotism of the men of 1845 caused to be erected there, in due time 8000 souls clustered around its beautiful site. Mr. President, by the ruthless removal of the capital, accomplished by virtue of the power of the bayonets of the army of the United States, the advancement and the prosperity of our section has been summarily arrested. For years have I used, to the utmost, my humble capacity and energies, to urge upon the people of my State to do justice to themselves and to the constituency whom I have the honor to represent before this body. With my worthy colleagues, I make the appeal that you sustain the majority report. By so doing you will have complied with the oft expressed decree of the people, and you will have added one more clause to the new constitution that will stand as an evidence of your earnest desire to place Louisiana on the high and plainly drawn road leading to the general welfare and happiness of its people.

Delegate Demas moved to postpone the further consideration of the article until Wednesday next. Laid on the table.

Delegate King argued against the article. He contrasted New Orleans with Baton Rouge and contended that in all respects the ... for the capital ... favored ... He ...

good reasons—and there were many more—he should oppose the removal.

Delegate Herron insisted that Baton Rouge had been fully tried as a capital city and had been found to possess every advantage and quality desirable. The people were satisfied with it, and had voted down every proposition for a change. New Orleans possessed many attractions. No one was more willing to concede this than himself. The hospitality of her citizens, the beauty of her women, the many allurements of a residence here, he frankly admitted; but these manifold attractions were not such as to act favorably upon legislation. They drew members away from their seats, and in every way retarded the public business. If the capital was retained in New Orleans it would be necessary in time to erect a State-House that would be an honor to the State, costing a large sum of money. This was another reason for the removal. In the interests of reform, good government and proper legislation, he hoped the Convention would adopt the article under consideration.

Delegate McConnell rose to address the Convention against the article. Pending his remarks the special order of the day, being the further

CONSIDERATION OF THE STATE DEBT,

was called up. Further consideration of the report of the Committee on General Provisions was postponed until the State debt question was disposed of, when it was to be again considered, Delegate McConnell being entitled to the floor.

The ordinance reported by the majority of the State Debt Committee was read. [It has already been published in full in the DEMOCRAT.]

The ordinance submitted by the minority of the committee was then read:

1. Be it ordained, That the principal of the consolidated bonds issued by the State is declared to be a valid obligation, and shall remain inviolate.

2. Be it further ordained, That the interest to be paid on said consolidated bonds be, and the same is hereby fixed at 3 per cent per annum for the period of five years from the first day of January, 1880, and at 4 per cent per annum thereafter, payable semi-annually.

3. Be it further ordained, That the holders of said consolidated bonds may at any time present their bonds to the Treasurer of the State, or to an agent to be appointed by the Governor, one in the city of New York and the other in the city of London, and the said Treasurer or agent, as the case may be, shall indorse or stamp thereon the words "interest reduced to 3 per cent per annum for five years, and 4 per cent thereafter."

4. Be it further ordained, That the annual five and a half mill tax levied for interest on said bonds, as authorized by law, be and the same is hereby reduced to three mills.

5. Be it further ordained, That the coupon of said consolidated bonds falling due first of January, in the year 1880, be and the same is hereby remitted, and any interest taxes collected to meet said coupons are hereby transferred to the account of the general fund to defray the expenses of the State government.

Delegate Lott moved the adoption of the majority report.

Delegate Caffrey moved to substitute the ordinance submitted by the minority of the committee.

Delegate Lott said the two reports represented the extreme views of the committee. The committee desired a fair and direct vote upon the two ordinances. If both were voted down the Convention could proceed to adopt some independent proposition. With these remarks he would give way to Delegate Caffrey, who would explain the ordinance submitted by the minority.

Delegate Caffrey explained that the minority ordinance in the first place recognized the face of the debt, thus maintaining the honor and credit of the State. It then provided for the relief of the people by reducing the rate of interest, and providing that no interest whatever should be paid for the remainder of the present year, beginning with the first of July. He hoped the Convention would take in consideration the serious nature of the question in casting their votes, and so vote as to preserve the honor and integrity of the State.

Delegate Robertson offered ... substitute by striking ... ment would ... ing "ten," in ... that a direct vote ... Del... according to the agreement ... committee.

Delegate White claimed the right to submit amendments and place his reasons for his vote upon all the questions in the journal.

Delegate Claiborne said he should vote against the minority ordinance because it failed to provide for the payment of the Seminary fund. At the proper time he should offer an amendment to cure this defect.

Delegate Ogden said the minority ordinance made no provision for the payment of the Agricultural College and Seminary fund. This debt amounted to $1,500,000. This would increase the debt if the minority report was adopted to $13,000,000.

Delegate Phelps said that a number of these bonds had been funded; but a decision of the Supreme Court prevented the Funding Board from funding the entire series.

The yeas and nays were then called on Delegate Robertson's amendment, resulting—yeas 49, nays 80. The vote in detail was as follows:

Yeas—Delegates Allain, Bobie, Bolton, Bourgeois, Breen, Bulger, Bulow, Burton, Cahen, Chaffe, Claiborne, Collins, Davidson of Claiborne, Davidson of Iberville, Donis, Edwards, Forman, Gardner, George, Gia, Grimes, Herron, Howell, Kernochan, Knoblock, Lanaux, Long, Lyons, Marshall, Mentz, Moore of Lafourche, McConnell, Noguez, Olivier, Ott, Parlange, Pinchback, Poche, Richardson, Roach, Robertson, Smith of St. Mary, Stamps, Stewart, Stille, Strovich, Warmoth, Watkins, Wells.

Nays—Delegates Babcock, Baskin, Bell, Benham, Blenvenu, Blanchard, Breaux, Bridger, Brian, Byrne, Caffrey, Carey, Chiapella, Colvin, Cunningham, Davenport, Demas, Dickerson, Dillard, Easterly, Estopinal, Faulk, Favrot, Fontelieu, Gaskins, Girard, Gowers, Gueringer, Havard, Henry of Cameron, Henry of Natchitoches, Hough, Jastremski, Jenkins, Joffrion, Kemp, Kennedy, Kidd, King, Kirkman, Lagan, Land, Landry, Leake, LeGardeur, Loan, Lott, Luckett, Marks, Matthews, Moreland, Moore of St. Landry, Munday, McGloin, Nutt, Ogden, Pardee, Phelps, Ponder, Reid, Rivet, Self, Semmes, Simon, Smith of Jackson, Stagg, Stevenson, Stone, Stringfellow, Sutherlin, Thompson, Todd, Vance, Webb, White, Williams of Grant, Williams of Terrebonne, Young of Concordia, Young of East Baton Rouge.

Delegate Blanchard, ...agan, Green, Thompson and White explained their votes.

Delegate ...anchard, in explaining his vote, said:

I vote "ye... on the report submitted by the majority of the Committee on the Public Debt for the reason that it avoids a large ...tion of the *ante bellum* debt upon a technical ... regard this *ante bellum* debt as coming down to us sanctioned ...time and recognized by the people to that ex... it. I vote "no" for the ...er reason that the Democratic party ...forms and commun... ...le, in its party ... committed to the re... ...of the validity ... the bonded debt as it ex... ...der the act of 187... and for the reason that th... ...ll, in all its department... ...ve olis governm... ...lidity, and I believe we ... recognized its ... disputing it.

I vote "no," for the further reason ... I believe ma... ...rity report goes further ... the people de... and in this matter of the pub... lic debt. Our ...ty should be first to give ... relief to the people which they expect and ... entitled to, an... second, to do so with as ... injury to the ...ublic creditor as possible ...der the circu...stances, having an eye ... party pledges ...ade in the past.

I vote "no," ...r the further reason that ... believe a mor... satisfactory readjustment of the debt question ... can be made, upon a basis that would allo... of the maximum rate of State taxation fo... all purposes being limited to five and a h... mills upon the dollar of valuation, which ... limitation would be satisfactory to the p...ple as affording them the relief they demand ... and which it is the duty of government to ... extend them in the present depressed financ... condition of the State and impoverishment of the people.

Delegate Lyons moved a reconsideration of the vote by which the minority substitute was voted down, which motion prevailed.

Delegate Cunningham offered the following substitute for the ordinance:

ARTICLE 1. The ...ght of taxation is a sovereign right—inalienable, indestructible—is the life of the State, and rightfully belongs to the people in all republican governments, and neither the General Assembly ... nor any ... nor all other departments of the ... government ever had, nor shall ever have the ... authority to irrevocably give, grant, limit or ... restrain this right; and all laws, grants, contr... acts and all other acts whatsoever, by the gover... ment, or any department thereof, to affect any ... of these purposes, are hereby declared to be null ... and void for every purpose whatsoever, and said ... right of taxation shall always be under the co... mplete control of, and revocable by, the State, ... notwithstanding any gift, grant or contract, ... or any pretended gift, grant or contract w... hatsoever by the General Assembly or any ... or ... all other departments of the government.

ART. 2. The fraudu... ent and the honest, the legal and the illegal ... debt of the State having been confused in the ... process of refunding, so as to render it impr... cticable to discriminate the present funded d... ebt of the State as embraced in the new co... nsolidated bonds issued under act No. 3 of 1874, ... shall be reduced to and be refunded at seventy-fi... e cents on the dollar on their fa... value, in ord... r to eliminate the fraudulent part of the debt a... nd reduce it within the ability of the State to p... ay. The new bonds to bear 4 per cent interest, payab... le semi-annually.

ART. 3. No ... shall be paid on the existing bonds ... and int... est on the new bonds herein authorized sha... ll run only from their date, and said new bond... s shall be issued and dated on presentation of t... he existing consolidated bonds for exchange th... erefor.

ART. 4. The Auditor and Treas... authorized and directed to ... pare the new bonds ... in denomination ... $1000 ... them for exchange, ... choose the denominations ... bonds which they shall receive in exchange.

Delegate Cunningham argued in support of the substitute. He did not believe it went as far as the people demanded, but he offered it as a matter of compromise. The preamble was copied from the constitution of Georgia. If his substitute, or some similar measure, was not adopted he should vote against a reconsideration of the vote by which the five mill tax rate had been fixed upon.

Delegate Simon moved to strike out "seventy-five" and insert "fifty."

Delegate Stringfellow moved to amend the minority report by providing that the rate of interest shall be 2 per cent for five years, 3 per cent for ten years and 4 per cent thereafter, from the first of January, 1880, and payable semi-annually.

Delegate Lyons moved to amend the amendment by adding: "Provided, that the holders of said bonds may, on the surrender thereof, receive currency bonds of the denomination of $5, $10 and $50, drawing 4 per cent interest with coupons, which will be received in payment of any taxes due to any fund which may be set apart for the payment of the interest on the public debt."

Delegate Lyons said he was one of those who had helped to plege the faith and honor of the State to the payment of the face of the public debt. He could not refuse to recognize the principal of the bonds. When he looked abroad over the State and saw the condition of the people he found that some relief must be afforded them. That relief would be afforded by the adoption of the amendment by Delegate Stringfellow, without a violation of the public faith, as the people were not pledged to pay the present rate of interest. The rate of interest provided could be easily met on a tax of five and a half mills, and as the rate of interest increased the property of the State would increase sufficiently to meet it. The bondholders had an alternative in his proviso, and by funding their bonds at seventy-five cents on the dollar could secure a larger rate of interest.

Delegate Herron insisted that the people of Louisiana had, since their possession of the government of the State, pledged their faith to the maintenance of the principal of the debt, and he for one was opposed to rejecting any portion of it. The reduction of the interest would relieve the people from the burdens of taxation, and in a few years the increased prosperity of the State would make what is now a load upon them a mere bagatelle. The sober second thought of the people would cause them to recognize the fact that such a settlement was right, proper, and the only honorable one that could be made. However that might be, he intended to do what he considered his duty, and he should not be swerved by any considerations of the result to himself. There was a moral obligation on the part of a State to pay what it owed, as well as on an individual. For himself he would never repudiate one cent of the State's obligations. All the relief demanded by the people would be afforded by the amendment.

DELEGATE BELL

addressed the Convention as follows:

Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Convention—I have listened with great interest and attention, for the past ten days, to the very able and exhaustive arguments of gentlemen of this Convention who differ so widely as to the proper mode of ... of the vexed question of the State ... from what I have heard, and I may ... in regard to this important subject ... re than ever convinced that my ... pressions and convictions, as to wh... duty in this matter, were correct, whi... that the State of Louisiana owes a legal and valid debt of $12,000,000, created under authority of law and by the fund... act of 1874, and which has passed into the ... of innocent third parties, under the be... that the honor and faith of the State ... n pledged to ... ds, and the ... ool ... the broad se... and the guarantee... ... me by our Gover... ... f the Democratic pa... Mr. President, wh...

... honorable adjustment look... ... of interest and within the ... State to meet it promptly at ma... hope is out, and that we are a bank... sir, am not one of those who believe ... th... as we are on the eve of con... ... realizing all resulting from ... commerce, resulting from ... pire of commerce, and now that railroad ... ...ilities, and now the great ex... ent.

I consider opens to us the ... Providence almost a thing of the ... against the ... ing ... State, which ... sinful, and tender ... corn, cane, ... suggest such a ... than ever before ... soil of this ... broad, by one of Louisiana's ... sons, the ... Hon. Don. Caffrey, of St. ... prevail, and carry conviction to the ... every man whose views yet waver on ... important question. Such a speech as ... carefully preserved, that the sent... ... fresh expressed could be handed down ... children as the noblest heritage ... that ... can ... those that follow us, and who ... called in after years to determine ... actions as we now have under consideration.

I hope we will, as he admon... ... pause and reflect before we give the ... stab to the honor of our State. I ... specially urge those members of the Con... whose hands are shackled by the ... instructions of their constituents to judge ... stand-point in which they now view ... question, with the new light that has been ... in the true nature and character of ... since their attention has been more closely ... it, and to cast their votes in ... with their own convictions; not as the ... ...piece of their electors; but as men ...

"Who know their rights,

And knowing, dare maintain."

Let them, conscious of their ... ...tude, to their constituents, and if ... I do not think ... they be called to account ... them in the words of the immortal Buchanan, ... similarly situated, leave the future ... stify them, and proudly exclaim to the ...

"No! *I did not obey your instructions*, ... conformed to the instructions of truth and ... ure, and maintained *your interests* against ... *your opinions*. A representative that was ... of you ought to be a person of judgment ... to look, indeed, to your opinions; but to ... ...ions as you and I must have five years ... I was not to look at the flash of the day, ... that you chose me in my place along ... others to be a *pillar of the State*, and ... weathercock on the top of the edifice ... ...uss but to indicate the shittings of every ... ...lonable gale."

While indorsing every word that passed ... the lips of the honorable gentleman from ... Mary, I especially ratify that portion where ... so boldly and forcibly takes the position that ... those not in the province of this Convention ... to attempt judicial investigation of this suit. ... And even if we had, how monstrous a doctrine ... to suppose that any power in a republican ... government could take from a creditor his property without giving him a hearing, which ... bondholders have not had before this Convention.

Now, Mr. President, as it may be supposed by ... some, from the earnest manner in which I ... speak, that I may have a pocket interest in this ... matter, I desire to say that I do not own a bond, ... but I have a large property interest that I believe will be seriously affected if we repudiate ... our debt. I am one of the few that desire to be ... taxed to pay the honest debt of the State. The ... only interest I have in bonds is an indirect one, ... having, through an error of judgment, after ... the Nicholls government came into power, ad... vised, as a director in two of our large corporations, the purchase of State consols at 84 ... as a permanent investment, and which they ... still hold.

Mr. President, my *pride*, not my *pocket*, is ... touched.

In the able address of my colleague, Mr. ... Semmes, he has shown us that ... respectively, ... legally escape the payment of ... ...ch, ... also by ... ...ation, a little ... and ... ...nomy to enable us ... not ... pay $12,000,000, but in after years to look ... back and remember with astonishment that ... such a doubt was ever discussed in the Convention of 1879.

I hope, therefore, Mr. President, that some proposition may be presented, looking to an equitable adjustment of this question, that will command the almost unanimous vote of this Convention and sustain the honor and credit of the State—a State whose credit in the days of our fathers (when a large portion of this debt was contracted) stood first among her sister States—a State whose very seal should impliedly guarantee her obligations at any cost. On the broad face of that seal Louisiana, through her emblem, is maintaining life in her offspring at the price of her heart's best blood.

Such is the proud seal that our fathers pointed to with pride—fit emblem of Louisiana's history. And yet to-day Louisiana's sons, in the face of all her proud traditions, would place this ineffaceable blot on her escutcheon.

Mr. President and gentlemen, I cannot—I will not believe it.

Delegate Simon opposed the amendments. He believed that nothing less than a scaling of fifty cents on the dollar would satisfy the people or grant them the relief which was necessary.

Delegate Stone did not intend to say anything more upon the subject of the debt, but he could not sit still and hear gentlemen prate about the faith and honor of the State and denounce as repudiators all who did not agree with them, when they themselves were in favor of cutting into and repudiating the interest of the debt. He denounced the statement that he was a repudiator. He did not believe the debt was honest and a proper charge upon the people. Gentlemen who did claim to so believe, and yet favored a cutting of the rate of interest, were the true repudiators. Although he was in favor of a compromise, he should favor no proposition that did not contain the words of the constitution of Georgia quoted at the beginning of Delegate Cunningham's substitute.

Delegate King thought there was a wide distinction between those who favored repudiation of any part of the principal and those who favored a reduction of the interest. The latter was a compromise with the bondholders, who were willing to accept it.

Delegate Phelps, who was alluded to by Delegate King as the gentleman from whom he had received the information that the bondholders were willing to accept a lower rate of interest, said he had received the information from bank presidents and other holders of bonds that the reduction of interest would be acceptable to them.

Delegate George favored the amendments. The Democratic party was pledged to pay the face of the debt, and that pledge should be maintained. The condition of the people, however, demanded a reduction of the burden of taxation, and the adoption of the amendments would give them the relief they asked for. There should be no further charges against members as repudiators. Practically there was no difference between those who favored the majority report and those who favored the minority. One favored a reduction of the principal, the other of the interest. The necessities of the State demanded a compromise and this was contained in the amendment now being considered. If they were adopted he believed the interests of all parties would be protected.

Delegate Caffrey stated, for the information of the Convention, that the committee had been informed by Messrs. Morris and Forstall that the bondholders would be willing to accept 3 and 4 per cent interest, as provided for in the minority report.

Delegate Watkins favored the amendments. The committee had done its duty, and the Convention had rejected its conclusions. It was useless for the Convention to investigate the subject of the debt further. The only thing remaining to be done was to offer a proposition, such as that suggested in the amendments, to the bondholders. He believed that they would accept it.

Delegate Bridger insisted that the Democratic party had not given the pledges claimed by the gentlemen on the floor. The party had pledged itself to the people to investigate the debt and cast aside all that was illegal. If he believed that ... the party was pledged to the payment of ... at he should support the minority rep... was understood to be propos... to the ... ders. ...

A motion to adjourn was then voted down ... yeas 39, nays 73.

The President announced that he had a... ...pointed Delegate Leake on the committee ... investigate charges against members of th... Convention in place of Delegate McConnell ... resigned on account of other committee en... gagements.

On motion of Delegate Leake the further ... consideration of the question of the State ... debt was postponed until to-morrow morning ... immediately after the reading of the journal.

Delegate Stamps moved to reconsider the ... vote by which the resolution instructing the ... State Auditor and Treasurer to not to pay the ... July interest on the State debt.

Pending consideration of the motion, the ... Convention adjourned until to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock.

THE COURTS.

Second District Court.

The succession of Louis Andre was opened.

Fifth District Court.

NEW SUITS.

Pattison & Bovard vs. John McMains.
Eugene Doherty vs. John McMains.
Alvin F. Ahlum vs. J. G. Coghill, master of steamboat Belle of Shreveport.
Schwabacher & Hirsch vs. John McMains.
Barstow & Deeves vs. John McMains.
John L. Sterry vs. John McPhelin.

Sixth District Court.

Wm. Fairle vs. St. Patrick's Hall Association; Continental Guards' garnishee.—Exception maintained and plaintiff's supplemental petition against said exception dismissed with costs.

Mrs. Julia Evit vs. George Merz, Jr., her husband.—Judgment by default confirmed and made final, and accordingly, that there be judgment in favor of plaintiff, decreeing a dissolution of acquests and gains existing between her and her husband; also, judgment for plaintiff for $500 with interest.

Sophie Lehman, wife of Abe Hayem, vs. her husband.—Judgment by default confirmed, decreeing a separation of property.

James McCracken vs. State of Louisiana.—Judgment for plaintiff for $1250 and interest.

Dr. O. Antoux vs. Marie L. Beebe and L. Beebe.—Judgment dissolving injunction, reserving to defendant her rights to sue for damages in a separate action. On reconventional demand judgment is rendered in favor of plaintiff in reconvention, Mary L. Beebe, for the possession of certain property.

Superior Criminal Court.

SENTENCED.

Chas. S. Randall, carrying a concealed weapon, $30 or twenty days Parish Prison.
E. Chasion, carrying a concealed weapon, $20 or ten days.

CONTINUED.

M. E. Dominguez, forgery. Prudent de Butte, perjury.

First District Court.

INFORMATIONS.

Geo. Hernandez, Bill Lewis, P. and ... Daulbert—Assault and battery.
F. Moore, entering in the daytime, ... larceny.

SENTENCED.

F. Ward, assault and battery, $5 or one d... in the Parish Prison.

ARRAIGNED AND PLEADED NOT GUILTY.

Pat Clark, assault and battery.

BASE BALL.

Eckfords vs. Caseys.

In a match game of ball played on Sunday, June 29, at Orleans Park, the Eckfords defeated the Casey nine by a score of 15 to 1... The Eckfords had the last inning, but the Casey nine gave up the game on the first ha... of the eighth.

The Eckfords play the Fagans on July 4 ... the same place, and the following Sund... they go to Biloxi to meet the Biloxi nine.

ALTOGETHERS VS. MARKS.

Capt. John Mahoney's Altogether Base B... Club of the Third District played the W... Marks Base Ball Club at the Montegut g... on Sunday, June 29, and defeated them b... score of 16 to 14.

The following is the score:

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Altogethers	0	4	3	0	2			
Wash Marks	0	0	2	5	2			

V. Miller, umpire; J. Dob...

Much credit is due to ... Lees, for umpiring the ga... on the part of the Wash M... although they were bea... playing on the Altogether... very wild, especially in t... the Wash Marks's, wher... to score three runs by o...

The striking by eve... gethers' side was excell... base hit almost every time... 6, the Altogethers will play ... Ball Club, at the Montegut gro...

The Marks Club expect to play a match game of base ball with the McComb Citys, at Pontchatoula, on the Fourth of July.

The following named gentlemen were, at a regular meeting held June 24, elected honorary members: Hon. Pat. Mealley, Hon. John Glynn, Hon. James D. Houston, Hon. John Fitzpatrick, Hon. E. R. Chevally, Augustus Marks, F. Bohne, Val. Kieffer, M. Hacker, Frank Richards, E. E. Duffey, John Hennessy, Paul Waterman, E. M. McKeough and H. Henriques.

The Marks Club will play the ... Club on Sunday, July 6, 1879, at ... Park.

CRESCENTS VS. GLADIATORS.

In a game of base ball Sunday, J... the old Hancock green, between the ... and Gladiator Clubs the score st... end of the fourth innings: Crescents ... lators 1.

MORTUARY REPORT.

The mortality for the week ending ... June 29, 1879, is as follows: Malarial ... 4; 2 typhoid fever, 8 cholera infantum, ... theria, 5 cancer, 11 consumption, ... mesenterica, 1 dropsy, 4 congestion ... 1 apoplexy, 5 meningitis, 1 tetanus, 5 ... sions, 7 heart disease, 1 bronchitis, 1 ... 3 pneumonia, 2 teething, 4 enteritis, 5 ... tery, 2 diarrhea, 1 cirrhosis of liver, 2 ... disease, 9 infantile debility, 2 senile d... 2 old age. Total 116 deaths. Whites—... 43; females 30; total 73. Colored—male ... females 23; total 43. Nine deaths at ... Charity Hospital, 1 at St. Vincent's ... firmary, and 15 deaths certified to by ... coroners.

STATE-HOUSE NOTES.

The Governor yesterday appointed Wm. ... Town councilman of the town of Bayou Sa... E. C. Roger, mayor, A. Arnaud, Louis Renau... Lucius Regnaud, M. Guidry, A. A. Quibedea... councilmen for the town of Arnaudville, St. ... Landry parish; Chas. D. Cotton, Louisville ... commissioner of deeds for Louisville; Dr. ... Alfred Duperrier, of New Iberia, levee com... missioner for the Fourth Levee District ... Louisiana; Samuel B. Shackeford, clerk ... the district court of Grant parish; W. C. ... Hanson, coroner of Grant parish.

BREVITIES.

The Board of State Engineers leaves on ... Wednesday for the annual tour of inspection ... in the several parishes of the State.

President Davis arrived in the city last ... evening by the Mobile road on a business ... trip, which will detain him here a few days.

The commencement exercises of the Pe... Normal School for colored students a... ...tributio... ...k was ... graduat...