

LEGISLATURE OF VERMONT. ANNUAL SESSION.

MONTEPELLIER, Oct. 8, 1863. SENATE.

Prayer by Rev. Levi H. Stone, of Northfield. The Hon. Paul Dillingham, Lieut. Governor, took the chair.

The Secretary called the roll, and the following Senators answered to their names, and took the oath of office:

- Addison County—S. D. HOLCOMB, EARL LUSHMAN. Bennington " LEMUEL BOTTUM. Chittenden " L. B. ENGLISH, JED P. CLARK, A. C. WELCH. Caledonia " GEO. COWLES, T. J. CREE. Essex " D. H. BEATTIE. Franklin " H. E. STEVENS, ALBERT KEITH, H. P. PARKER. Grand Isle " WM. W. LYMAN. Lamoille " J. A. CHILD. Orange " A. BEAN, J. M. BASS. Orleans " E. CLEVELAND, J. H. KELLAM. Rutland " WM. T. NICHOLS, NATHANIEL FISH, MERITT CLARK. Washington " R. RICHARDSON, ADDISON PECK, P. D. BRADFORD. Windham " H. E. STOUTGTON. Windsor " J. H. POLLARD, N. B. SAFFORD, W. W. WILLIAMS.

The Chair announced the following Committee to canvass the votes for Governor, Lieut. Governor and other State officers:

Addison Co., Mr. Cushman; Bennington, Mr. Bottum; Caledonia, Mr. Cowles; Chittenden, Mr. English; Essex, Mr. Beattie; Franklin, Mr. Keith; Grand Isle, Mr. Lyman; Lamoille, Mr. Child; Orange, Mr. Bass; Orleans, Mr. Kellam; Rutland, Mr. Clark; Washington, Mr. Peck; Windham, Mr. Stoutgton; Windsor, Mr. Williams.

On motion of Mr. Keith, of Franklin county, the rules of last session were adopted as the rules for the time being.

On motion of Mr. Stoutgton, the Senate proceeded to the election of Secretary and Assistant Secretary.

Mr. Stoutgton nominated Henry Clark of Poultney. Messrs. Bradford and Cree were appointed tellers. The votes being taken the result was as follows:

Whole number of votes, 26. Necessary to a choice, 14. Henry Clark had 26.

Mr. Clark was declared elected and took the oath of office.

Mr. Cree nominated George A. Thatcher of Caledonia County for Assistant Secretary.

Mr. English nominated Henry L. Lamb of Burlington. Messrs. Welch and Clark of Rutland were appointed tellers.

The votes being taken the result was as follows: Whole number of votes, 26. Necessary to a choice, 15. Mr. Lamb had 16. Mr. Thatcher had 10.

HENRY L. LAMB was declared elected. On motion of Mr. Stevens of Franklin County the Senate proceeded to the election of Chaplain.

Mr. Holcomb nominated Rev. Levi H. Stone of Northfield. Mr. Richardson moved the vote be taken viva voce. Carried.

The question being put Mr. Stone was declared elected.

Resolution, by Mr. Safford, that the Secretary inform the House that the Senate is organized and ready to proceed with the business of the session. Adopted.

The Chair appointed Messrs. Stevens and Safford a Committee to wait on the Governor and inform him of the organization of the Senate.

Resolution, by Mr. Richardson, that the Secretary be directed to procure one daily newspaper for the use of each of the Senators. Adopted.

On motion of Mr. Keith, of Franklin County, adjourned.

HOUSE.

The House was called to order at ten o'clock, A. M., by Hon. GEO. W. BAILEY, Jr., Secretary of State.

Prayer was offered by Rev. A. L. Cooper. The roll of members elect was then read by the Secretary, and nearly all were present and responded to the call.

The Secretary then administered the oaths of office to the members collectively.

ELECTION OF SPEAKER.

The Secretary then directed the House to the election of a Speaker for the year ensuing.

Mr. Deane, of Cavendish, said that as his name had been mentioned in connection with the office of Speaker, he would take occasion to withdraw it, and would nominate for that office, A. B. Gardner, of Bennington.

Mr. Shaw, of Burlington, seconded the nomination and spoke briefly in favor of the qualifications of the nominee.

Mr. Noyes, of Hydepark, nominated Mr. Geo. M. Fiske.

Mr. Wright, of Bradford, seconded the nomination.

The Chair appointed as tellers, Messrs. Shaw, Noyes, and Hollister of Manchester.

The result of the ballot was as follows: Whole number of votes, 223. Necessary to a choice, 112. A. B. Gardner, 198. George M. Fiske, 21. O. G. Wheeler, 3. O. P. Chandler, 2. G. Noyes, 1.

And Mr. Gardner was declared elected.

The Chair appointed as Committee to conduct the Speaker elect to the chair, Messrs. Deane, of Manchester, and Fisher, of Vergennes. They performed this duty, and the Speaker elect took the customary oaths of office.

On taking the chair, he spoke as follows: Gentlemen of the House of Representatives: I should do injustice to my own feelings if I without my grateful acknowledgments for the honor you have conferred upon me, and for the unanimity with which you have elected me to preside over your deliberations for this Session.

The position is one of responsibility. I bring to the performance of its duties but little experience as a presiding officer. I shall, however, endeavor to discharge them with fairness and impartiality.

The House of Representatives has hitherto been distinguished for its love of order, for the gentlemanly bearing of its members toward each other, and for an unusual degree of courtesy and kindness towards its presiding officer. If I shall so discharge the duties of the position you have assigned me, as to merit your approval, and to merit

such receive that degree of courtesy and kindness which has been extended to its predecessors, my highest wishes will have been attained.

My best efforts will be exerted to facilitate the business of the session. We owe it to ourselves that we should so far as may be consistent with that degree of deliberation which is requisite to the proper legislation, meet the expectations and gratify the wishes of our constituents, that this session should be a short one. The accumulating debt of the State, the future sacrifices which will be demanded as in the cause of the country, admonish us that we should be diligent in business.

The country is now in the third year of the rebellion, a rebellion causeless in its inception, unexampled in its power; and although its propensities may have been somewhat diminished, yet so long as its temper and spirit are unbroken, we must continue to furnish such material and efficient aid as shall be demanded of us by the General Government, that Vermont may keep its position which she has hitherto so proudly occupied. We feel a just pride in the history and prospectiveness with which all demands upon her have hitherto been met. Discarding all party distinctions, she has hitherto stood as one man for the cause of the country.

Her first effort was professed with the declaration that it was to defend the Constitution and the Union, and I trust our action will be such that the world will understand that the first oath to the Old Thirteen will not falter in the cause of a constitution I Liberty so long as there is a traitor to raise a hand against its glorious life. And trusting to Him who doeth all things well, we may hope that at the right time, and in the right way, our efforts will be crowned with success, and our sacrifices blessed with an enduring harvest of peace.

ELECTION OF CLERK.

The Speaker directed the House to the election of Clerk.

Mr. Skinner, of Barton, nominated B. A. Stewart, of Derby, Clerk of the last House, and spoke briefly of his qualifications as shown by his former services.

Mr. Marcy, of Royalton, nominated Col. Cummings, of Brattleboro.

Mr. Dorr, of Rutland, seconded the nomination of Col. Cummings, and spoke at length in his favor.

Mr. White, of Coventry, seconded the nomination of Mr. Stewart. He referred to the fact that it was usual to elect a Clerk for at least two successive years. If this was not done it was taken as a vote of censure by the House. Mr. Stewart's superior qualifications for the position he sought should screen him from such an implied censure. He took occasion also to remark that stories had been circulated to the effect that Mr. Stewart was tainted with Copperheadism. He was able, from his own personal knowledge, to " nail this to the counter," and he hoped the House would not give their sanction to such false reports and blight the political prospects of a young man by so doing.

Mr. Follansby of Middlebury nominated Waldo Brigham of Hydepark.

The Speaker appointed as tellers Messrs. Skinner, Follansby and Marcy.

The ballot resulted as follows: Whole No. of votes, 224. Necessary to a choice, 113. B. A. Stewart, 157. Col. Cummings, 47. Waldo Brigham, 19. H. H. Powers, 1.

and E. A. Stewart was declared elected, and took the customary oaths of office.

The Speaker administered the oath to support the Constitution of the United States, and of the State of Vermont, to the members, as required by statute, and the members severally subscribed their names to the oath to support the Constitution of the State of Vermont. Before the business of subscribing to the oath had been completed, on motion of Mr. Hollister of Manchester, adjourned to 2 P. M.

ELEVENTH REGIMENT.—Surgeon Kidder has resigned, and Assistant Surgeon Meigs is acting Surgeon.

The new battery L, Captain Safford, have been in camp about a month, but have not received their arms.

The Belgian muskets, which the regiment received at Brattleboro, have been exchanged for the Springfield rifle musket.

A Brass Band is being organized, the instruments having recently arrived in camp.

PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S LETTERS.—Benj. B. Russell, of Boston, has published in a pamphlet of 22 pages, all President Lincoln's letters on questions of National Policy. In this the publisher has done the public a good service. Every person who desires to preserve these letters, should have one of these pamphlets.

THE INSURRECTION IN SAN DOMINGO.—At last accounts from San Domingo the uprising against the Spanish authorities was general and everywhere successful. It is said that the Dominicans are commanded by able leaders; that they are well supplied with arms and ammunition of good quality; that they have a sufficient commissariat; and are unanimously resolved to drive from their soil every vestige of the presence of their oppressors. The physical character of the island is such that a small force of natives can easily prevent the passage of large numbers of troops to the interior, and we are told that the insurgents are in the best of spirits, and feel confident of such a result. San Domingo comprises the eastern portion of the Island of Hayti, with an area of 17,000 square miles, or twice the extent of New Hampshire. It has a population of 140,000, nine-tenths of whom are blacks. Within the last fifty years the Dominicans have been at different times subjects of Spain and then of France, and been repeatedly engaged in fierce wars with Hayti, in an effort to maintain their independence. Recognized by France, a treaty with that power was concluded in 1848, and with Great Britain two years later. For a time they enjoyed a considerable degree of prosperity, but through the treachery of President Santana, the rights and liberties of the people were sold to Spain and the act of annexation consummated. Against Spain they now rebel, alleging that they have been treated as vanquished subjects; that civil and religious liberty have been taken away; that their educational institutions have been suppressed; in short, that Spanish rule has been followed by the decay of commerce, the discouragement of domestic industry, and mental and moral deterioration.—Boston Journal.

A deserter ran across the suspension bridge at Lewiston, N. Y., a few days since, and a guard after him. They followed him into Queenstown, on the Canada side, and fired at him, without effect, whereupon the soldiers were arrested by the Canadian authorities and put in jail. A well known citizen went to their relief, and after making due apologies, the soldiers were released.—The Canadians were very indignant at this invasion by Yankee soldiers.

COMMUNICATION FROM GOV. HOLBROOK.

Gentlemen of the Senate

and House of Representatives:

In view of the extraordinary duties imposed upon the Governor, growing out of the peculiar condition of the country, I deem it proper respectfully to submit to you a brief statement relating to some matters which have transpired during the past year, most of which are connected with the military affairs of the State.

Orders have been drawn on the Treasurer, by the Governor, from Oct. 1, 1862, to Oct. 8, 1863, amounting to the sum of \$156,950 42.

In general terms, these orders have been for the following classes of expenditures:

- 1. State pay to soldiers of \$7 per month, from enlistment to muster into the service of the United States, and expenses of paying; also, pay of officers from date of commission to date of muster, \$80,526 23.
2. Aid to families of soldiers, as per report of John Howe, Jr., Esq., the agent appointed to dispense State aid thereto. 21,517 54.
3. Recruiting and drilling, equipment, inspection and organization, medical aid and stores, &c., the greater part being for troops raised during the year 1862, and which has been presented to the General Government for allowance, and is supposed to be collectable, 24,212 71.
4. Sundries, perhaps mostly uncollectable, and to be regarded as State expenses, and which are stated more in detail in the Abstract accompanying this Communication, 30,693 94.
\$156,950 42

An Abstract, stating the character of these expenditures somewhat more in detail, accompanies this Communication, to which reference is respectfully made.

I have the pleasure to refer you to the report of John Howe, Jr., Esq., accompanying this Communication, which gives the details of the expenditures involved in the dispensing of State aid to the families of soldiers.

I respectfully suggest that a committee be appointed to audit the accounts and vouchers in the Executive Department, on which the above named expenditures are based; and, if desired, the Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs will be in attendance to exhibit them to such committee.

The advances made by the State to the General Government mentioned in the foregoing 3d classification, together with like advances mentioned in the 4th classification of a similar statement made in my annual Message last year, have, during the year 1863, been presented in due form to the authorities at Washington, for allowance, and probably the State will be reimbursed therefor by the U. S. Treasury Department, to an amount somewhere between forty-five and fifty thousand dollars.

The action of the State authorities, under the provisions of the Act entitled "An Act relating to the organization, regulation, and government of the Militia of this State," approved Dec. 2d, 1862, will fully appear in the Annual Report of the Adjutant and Inspector General, to which Report reference is respectfully made.

Agreeably to the provisions of the Act entitled "an Act to provide for enrolling the Militia in the several gores and unorganized towns in this State," approved Dec. 2, 1862, I appointed persons to make the required enrollments in such gores and unorganized towns.

The agents appointed by the Act entitled "An Act providing for the appointment of agents to receive and dispose of the Land Scrip to which this State may be entitled under the act of Congress, approved July 2, 1862," approved Dec. 1, 1862, executed their respective bonds in full compliance with the requirements of said Act; and the bonds were approved by me and deposited with the Secretary of State. Section 5, of said Act authorizes the Governor to receive proposals for donations of land, buildings and funds from any part of the State, or from any person or persons, for the purpose of establishing a college, according to the provisions of the act of Congress heretofore mentioned; but no such proposals have been received.

In compliance with the Act entitled "An Act authorizing the Governor to appoint Listers and Collectors of taxes for the several gores in this State," approved Dec. 1, 1862, I appointed a Commissioner and a Collector for every County in which there are any gores or unorganized towns.

In obedience to the Act entitled "An Act to authorize repairs of the roof of the State House," approved Nov. 24, 1862, I appointed Mr. Erastus Hubbard, of Montpelier, to provide for, and superintend the necessary repairs of said roof. A report of his doings will doubtless be made to my successor.

Agreeably to the Act entitled "An Act authorizing the Governor to loan arms, &c., to Norwich University," approved Nov. 26, 1862, eighty muskets and eighty sets of equipments were procured by the Quartermaster General, by requisition upon the United States, and loaned to that University.

In compliance with the Act entitled "An Act to authorize the Governor to furnish Tourniquets for the use of the soldiers," approved Nov. 5, 1862, I directed the Quartermaster General to purchase twenty-five hundred tourniquets and distribute them in just proportions to the Vermont regiments, which duty he accordingly performed. Five hundred tourniquets were donated by the inventor, Dr. Lambert, and were distributed along with those purchased.

The Joint Resolutions passed by the General Assembly at its last session, relating to the appointment of Commissioners to visit sick soldiers from Vermont, in the United States service, to minister to their comfort and recovery, and to procure, at the expense of the State, the removal of such of them to Vermont, on furlough, as might thereby, in the estimation of the Commissioners, be more speedily restored to health, could not be fully carried out in practice, inasmuch as they conflicted in some respects with the rules and regulations governing the service. The system of granting furloughs had been extensively practiced, until the War Department, finding by experience that large numbers of the men thus indulged did not return to the service, and that the army was being depleted at a rapid and alarming rate, felt compelled to issue stringent orders discontinuing the practice. The authorities at Washington therefore declined to allow our disabled men to be sent to Vermont on furlough, but expressed a willingness to fill the Hospitals then in the State—keeping the Hospitals and men, however, strictly under the control of the Government, and subject to the army rules.

After considering the matter in its various bearings, I came to the conclusion that the best thing practicable to be done for the benefit of our sick and wounded soldiers, was to arrange for their transfer to Hospitals in Vermont. There were then two Hospitals in the State, one at Burlington, a superior edifice, capable of accommodating about one hundred men, and one at Brattleboro, of about equal capacity. But these accommodations were not sufficient for the treatment of all our soldiers who would be proper subjects for transfer to the State. An effort was therefore made to induce the authorities at Washington to order the enlargement of these two Hospitals to the requisite capacity; but this was declined, on the ground that the Government had already incurred the expense of providing, nearer the seat of war, all the hospital accommodations which the army required.

It was then proposed to the Secretary of War, that, with his permission, and as the cheapest available means to the State for increasing its hospital accommodations, the State authorities would connect a sufficient number of the Government barrack buildings at Brattleboro, with the United States Hospital already there, to make the establishment, as a whole, large enough for the treatment of from four hundred to five hundred men, and fit the buildings up suitably for hospital purposes, at the expense of the State, provided the authorities at Washington would order the transfer of the sick and wounded Vermont soldiers to the State, for further Hospital treatment; adding the remark that it was thought that the change to our pure mountain air and water would alone contribute to the cure of enough more of our men, and the restoration of all curable cases enough sooner to the service, than could be accomplished in more Southern latitudes, to warrant the Government in the expense of transporting them to and from the State. To this proposition the Secretary of War assented, with the stipulations, however, that the Hospitals and men must be strictly under the control and management of the Government, and subject to the rules of the Army; that only such soldiers as had already been placed in General Hospitals should be taken; that Commissioners of the State might visit the United States General Hospitals, to find our men and report them to the Surgeon General, who would thereupon order the transfer of all thus reported who were judged to be proper cases to be sent to the State for further treatment; but that men so far attached to their commands in the field, as not yet to have been sent to General Hospitals, must not be taken, as the requirements of the service would not permit the interference of State agents with the army in the field.

The Quartermaster General of the State was directed to make these enlargements and improvements, and pay the expense thereof out of the funds that had accrued to the State in his Department, from the subsisting of troops while in regimental rendezvous in the State last year. The buildings were accordingly removed to the Hospital, and fitted up in cheap, but neat and comfortable style, at an expense of about seven thousand dollars, the details of which may be found in the Annual Report of the Quartermaster General, to which Report reference is respectfully made.

The ladies of Vermont very promptly and liberally supplied the hospital outfit for the additional wards thus provided.

Hon. D. L. Lyman and Mr. F. F. Holbrook were appointed Commissioners to visit the various United States General Hospitals in and near Washington, in Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania and New York, to look up Vermont soldiers therein, report them at the Surgeon General's office in Washington, and procure their transfer, with the previous understanding that the men thus reported would be transferred, excepting only such as, in the opinion of the Surgeons in charge of these Hospitals, could not bear the journey to Vermont, and such as would get well in two or three weeks remaining where they were. About one thousand sick and wounded soldiers, scattered through a large number of Hospitals, have thus been transferred to Vermont, to enjoy the benefits of the change to our mountain climate and their native air, of the best of medical treatment, and of being near, and visited by, relatives and friends. The expenses of transportation are borne by the General Government. The expenses and services of the Commissioners, up to the present time, amount to about three thousand dollars, or about three dollars per man of the men transferred. No ill effects have resulted to the soldiers in their transit to the State.

It is becoming a settled opinion among high medical authorities in the army, that it will be advisable to establish several Hospitals on elevated upland, or in mountainous regions, more particularly for the most successful treatment of chronic diarrhea