# The People's Vindicator.

THE WELFARE OF THE PEOPLE IS THE SUPREME LAW.

A DEMOCRATIC NEWSPAPER, ESTABLISHED 1874.

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The People's Vindicator.

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A sentinel for Democratic principles—the voice of no clique or party. Free and outspoken and the friend of the People.

J. H. COSGROVE, Editor & Proprietor.

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# New Orleans Notes.

## ELECTION OF A UNITED STATES SENATOR AND CIRCUIT JUDGES.

THE WORK OF THE SESSION ACTIVELY BEGUN—INTRODUCTION AND REFERENCE OF A LARGE NUMBER OF BILLS—GENERAL NOTES AND COMMENTS.

[Special Correspondence of the VINDICATOR.]

NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 24, 1880.

Speaker Ogden appointed the House committees on Monday last, and then both Houses were fully prepared for the work of the Session That the members were ready for the business that had called the General Assembly together was evidenced by the fact that notice of intention to introduce many bills at a future day was at once given, a great number have already been presented in both branches, and referred to the proper committees. To those unfamiliar with the forms of legislation it may appear strange that no bill has yet been acted on finally by either House. It is not probable that any legislation will be perfected for two or three weeks. After bills are offered they are referred to committees, where they are properly digested and recommended for adoption or rejection. Experience has shown that in this way the business of a Legislature is expedited and much bad legislation prevented. When the Legislature is apparently doing nothing in open session, its members are really most busily employed. In the first weeks of the session, committee work engages each member several hours each day, and it is in the committee room that a member performs the greatest service of the State and his constituents. Here bad bills are killed and good ones perfected. The after debate in open house is usually a mere formality. Very few acts favorably reported by a committee are defeated, and still fewer get through when they come back with an adverse report.

Hasty legislation has been a curse to the commonwealth, and among the many wise provisions of the new constitution none is more beneficial than that which prevents the General Assembly from suspending its rules and railroading bills through. Many of the most objectionable measures on our Statute books, and many more that have been on them and have required much time, labor and expense to the State to have expunged, were passed in this way. Introduced towards the end of the session, not properly acted upon in committee read by title only, vaguely explained when before the House and Senate and not understood by half a dozen members, they would go through under a suspension of the rules in the last days of the session, by the votes of a bare majority of a bare quorum, and members would afterwards learn with surprise and regret that they had voted for bills to which they were in every way approved. Nothing of this kind is possible now. The constitution prevents a suspension of the rules which requires a bill to be read on three separate days in each House, and also requires that on its final passage the roll shall be called and a majority of all the members must be recorded in the affirmative before it can become a law.

Natchitoches is well represented in the committees. In the Senate Mr. Cunningham is on the committees on the Judiciary and Militia. He is also Chairman of the joint caucus of the Democratic members. In the House, Mr. Cosgrove is Chairman of Committee on Public Printing, and is a member of the Committee on Contingent expenses, Corporations, and rules; Mr. Jackson is Chairman of the Committee on Quarantine. These are all important committees and their selection is a compliment to the gentlemen named as well as the constituency which they represent. No other parish is as well provided for on the committees as Natchitoches.

THE ELECTION OF UNITED STATES SENATOR.

"It is the unexpected that happens." The French proverb finds an illustration in the election of Gen. Randall L. Gibson to the United States Senate to fill the term beginning on the fourth of March, 1883. It was believed that the patriotic services of John McEnery would secure to him the Senatorship, for which he was an aspirant, and until the meeting of the Democratic caucus on Monday night, no one could be found who did not believe he would lead on the first ballot. The contest had really narrowed down to McEnery and Gibson, although Messrs Texada, of Rapides, and Coffrey, of St. Mary, were still in the field. The result of Monday night's caucus was a genuine surprise. When the first ballot was taken it was found that Gen. Gibson was largely in the lead, developing the fact that much quiet work had been done in his behalf. The advantage of a still hunt was shown by the fact that he received 49 votes, while McEnery got 38, Texada 9, Coffrey 7, Lott, of West Carroll, 2, and Gov. Wiltz 1. On the next ballot Gibson's vote had increased to 53, while McEnery had 39, Texada 7, and Coffrey 7. Two more votes would have nominated Gibson on this ballot. General demoralization existed among his opponents, who were thoroughly disconcerted at the strength he displayed, and another ballot would probably have resulted in his nomination. The friends of McEnery succeeded, however, in securing an adjournment of the caucus until Wednesday night, with the hope of making a break in the rank of Gibson's friends in the meantime. The result showed that this hope was a forlorn one. It was found that the friends of Texada and Coffrey would not unite upon McEnery, in the belief that they held the balance, and that one of their favorites would be selected as a compromise candidate. It was also found that if these candidates were withdrawn Gibson would receive two or three of the votes that had been cast for them, or enough to secure the nomination.

When the caucus reassembled on Wednesday night, no break had been made in the Gibson line, and McEnery held his own votes well in hand. The first ballot resulted: Gibson 53, McEnery 36, Coffrey 8, Texada 8, scattering 3. There had been no practical change since the second ballot on Monday night, and if Texada and Coffrey could have held their votes, there would have been a dead lock. But this was not the case. On the next ballot one of Coffrey's votes and one of the scattering went to Gibson, and he received 55, McEnery getting 38, Texada 6, Coffrey 1, scattering 2. Fifty-five was just enough to nominate, being a bare majority of the caucus, and Gen. Gibson was declared the choice of the Democratic party for United States Senator.

An analysis of the vote in caucus shows that Gen. Gibson was nominated by the votes of the city members. The country was pretty evenly balanced between Gibson and McEnery, the former getting the bulk of the vote in the Mississippi river and Sugar parishes, while Gov. McEnery's strength was drawn principally from the Red river section, and North Louisiana. Of the twenty-eight city members, McEnery received the votes of only five, as far as can be ascertained, Gibson getting about twenty. Why the city vote was so cast is a matter of conjecture. Gen. Gibson cannot be said to be personally popular in New Orleans. While his ability is conceded, he is regarded by the masses as cold and unsympathetic. McEnery, on the other hand, is easily approached and well liked; besides, nearly all the prominent city politicians were entirely enlisted in his favor, Sheriff Fitzpatrick being the only influential local politician who supported Gibson. Had the city done as well for McEnery as was expected, he would have been nominated.

On Thursday Gen. Gibson was formally elected in joint session of the General Assembly, receiving all the votes cast, 122 in number. He was placed in nomination by Senator Cunningham, Chairman of the joint Democratic caucus, and the nomination was seconded by Allain, a colored member of the House from Iberville, speaking for the Republicans, who made no nomination.

THE CIRCUIT JUDGES.

The lobby has almost disappeared; the thousand and one patriotic gentlemen who were willing to serve the State on the circuit bench have lost themselves to public view during the past thirty-six hours. The circuit judges have been elected, and subsequent proceedings of the Legislature have no interest for the disappointed aspirants. They have returned to their homes, and it is safe to say that they will not hereafter be found among those sounding the praises of the Legislature of 1880—for judgment in filling judicial offices at least. All the same, the General Assembly has satisfactorily performed a most important duty. It may be said without reserve, that better selections could not have been made, even from the mass of choice material at hand. I will not offend the sensibilities of the defeated by asserting that the selections are the very best that could have been made, for many of those who were unsuccessful were among the foremost men in the State for their knowledge of the law, for their experience, and for judicial cast of mind and varied accomplishments; but all those selected were at least the equals of the defeated, and a majority of them were the very best men even among the distinguished array presented to the Legislature as candidates for the circuit bench. The Democratic caucus was engaged two nights in making the nominations. In some of the circuits the contest was spirited, and several ballots were required before a choice could be made. All the caucus nominees were elected by acclamation on Thursday and Friday in joint session of the General Assembly. The Republicans made no nominations, but endorsed those candidates presented by the Democratic caucus in every instance.

As a matter of interest to the readers of the VINDICATOR, I give the result of the ballots in caucus for the judges of the first and third circuits. It will be seen that Senator Cunningham, of Natchitoches, received a highly complimentary vote.

First Circuit—First ballot—Major J. C Moncure 96, A. B. George 52, M J. Cunningham 41, Judge Smith 34, and Judge Gaskins 9. Major Moncure being the only candidate nominated, a second ballot was taken, resulting—George 57, Cunningham 22, Smith 22 Gaskins 5, Judge George being nominated.

Third Circuit—First ballot—Joseph H. Moore, of St. Landry, 75 A. B Irion, of Avoyelles, 36, Judge Ryan, of Rapides, 29, Judge Simon, of St. Martin, 14, Mr. Perrodin 28, and Mr. Voorhies 31, Mr. Moore being nominated for the long term, a second ballot was taken without choice for the short term—on the third ballot Mr. Irion was nominated, the vote standing: Irion 77, Ryan 20, Voorhies 12.

The full list of the gentlemen elected for the several circuits is as follows:

First Circuit—John C. Moncure, of Caddo, long term; an A. B. George of Webster, short term.

Second Circuit Owen Mayo, of Concordia, long term; and W. W. Farmer, of Ouachita, short term.

Third Circuit—Joseph M. Moore, of St. Landry, long term; and A. B. Irion, of Avoyelles, short term.

Fourth Circuit—Charles McVeigh, of East Baton Rouge, long term; and Samuel J. Powell, of West Feliciana, short term.

Fifth Circuit—J B. Winchester, of St. James, long term; and A. C. Dumatrait, of St. Mary, short term.

Orleans—Walter Bogess, long term; and Frank McGloin, short term.

THE SUPREME COURT JUDGES

have not been yet appointed by the Governor. It is understood that the names of many eminent lawyers are before him for consideration, and it is predicted that when the members of the court are announced it will be found to consist of a number of the most honored sages in Louisiana, men of repute in public and social life and lawyers of State-wide distinction. There is much curiosity upon the subject and the general public awaits executive action with impatience. It is a matter in which the Governor can well make haste slowly. No more important problem will come before him for solution. The members of the Supreme Court will be selected after due deliberation, as they should be, and public curiosity will be gratified, as well as public interests amply cared for, in good time.

THE BILLS BEFORE THE LEGISLATURE.

I have said that many bills have been presented in the Senate and House. Some of these are of local interest only. Others are of consequence to the State at large, and of these I append the titles of the most important, with the names of the introducers:

By Senator Nutt—A bill fixing the terms of the Supreme Court which provides as follows for the meeting of the court:

New Orleans—First Monday of November to the end of May.

Monroe — Commencing on first Monday in June. All appeals from Caldwell, Catahoula, Richland, Morehouse and West Carroll returnable at Monroe on first Monday in June, and all appeals from Winn, Claiborne, Union, Lincoln, Jackson, Ouachita and Franklin returnable at Monroe on second Monday in June.

Opelousas—First Monday in July. All appeals from Calcasieu, St. Landry, Cameron, Vermillion, Lafayette, Iberia, St. Mary and St. Martin returnable at Opelousas on first Monday in July.

Shreveport—Third Monday in July. Appeals from Caddo, Bossier, Webster, Bienville, DeSoto and Red River, returnable on said third Monday in July at Shreveport.

That all appeals which may be granted to said court, before passage of this act, shall in no manner be prejudiced by the change in the return day.

All appeals from Caddo, Bossier, Webster, Bienville, DeSoto and Red River which may be pending in the Supreme Court of the State on the first of April, 1880, shall at once be transferred to said court at Shreveport for trial and decision.

By Senator Nutt—A bill to provide for the trial of offences when the penalty is not necessarily imprisonment in the Penitentiary or death. The bill requires sheriffs to notify the district attorney of arrests in such cases immediately after the arrest, the district attorney as soon thereafter as possible to file the necessary information, the trials to be before a jury of five persons, and provides that the accused may waive trial by jury.

By Senator Marston—A bill to provide for the uniform assessment. This bill provides that the police juries of the parishes and a board of equalization for the parish of Orleans, composed of two taxpayers from each ward, to be appointed by the Governor, shall convene and sit at their respective parish sites as a board of equalization, on the first Monday of June of each year, to receive assessment lists, etc., for inspection, correction equalization and approval. The board in each parish will inspect the books of their parish to see that every person has returned his property at the actual cash valuation, the board to have power to send for persons and papers. They shall have power to correct the rolls to their cash values. The boards are to divide property into first, second and third class. (The third class shall comprise unimproved property.) It shall be the duty of the boards to give thirty days' notice before their meeting in some newspaper or by posting a notice if there be no paper in the parish.

By Senator Newton—An act to amend act No. 28 of 1877. This bill prohibits the receiving or delivering of unginned cotton, cotton seed or cotton in the lint in the night time.

By Senator Luckett—A bill in reference to preference cases in the courts. This bill provides that all suits or civil causes in which is involved the question of the validity of the charter or special privileges or monopoly of any corporation shall be tried by preference by the lower courts and be placed on the summary docket of the Supreme Court and be tried as summary cases.

By Senator Walton—A bill to reorganize the police juries throughout the State be appointed by the Governor for four years, beginning on the first of April, 1880.

By Senator Robertson—A bill for the relief of James B. Longstreet, late State Commissioner of Engineers, and appropriating $14,000 for salaries claimed to be due for the years 1875, 1876 and part of 1877.

By Senator Steele—A bill to secure to sellers of agricultural products a privilege thereon.

By Senator Foster—A bill relative to official bonds, which provides that the solvency and sufficiency of all sureties on official bonds shall be determined by the assessed value of such sureties' real estate situated in the parish where the officer giving such official bond resides, and should such real estate be encumbered, than the difference between the mortgage and the assessed valuation of the property shall be taken as the standard for judging of the sufficiency of such surety.

Sureties shall have their domicile in the parish where the officer furnishing such bond resides.

Bonds are to be furnished within thirty days after issuance of commission, otherwise the office will be *ipso facto* vacant.

By Senator Walton—A bill to create a bureau of agriculture, provides as follows: The Governor shall appoint one commissioner, who, with the Governor, shall constitute a bureau of agriculture and immigration, which shall have power to appoint agents in various parts of Europe; the bureau to have power to make contracts for transportation; the bureau to make yearly publication of statistics; the commissioner to keep a register of lands for sale in the State, and the names of persons wishing to purchase; any citizen of Louisiana may register any lands owned by him for a fee of three dollars for each parcel of land registered; any person desirous of registering to purchase lands shall pay a fee of one dollar; the office of the commissioner shall be at New Orleans, and his salary shall be fifteen hundred dollars per annum, and he shall give bond in ten thousand dollars; the expenses of the bureau shall never exceed the amount provided by law (ten thousand dollars) in any one year.

By Senator Augustin—A bill relative to testimony in criminal cases, which provides that neither husband nor wife shall be compelled to testify against each other; a person charged with the commission of crimes or offenses shall, at his own request, but not otherwise, be deemed a competent witness, and his neglect or refusal to testify shall not create any presumption against him; the connection of a witness with any crime may be shown to affect his credibility.

By Senator Newton—An act which provides that Sundays, the fourth of July and twenty-fifth day of December only shall be recognized as legal holidays.

Also a bill to restrain ministerial and judicial officers from going bail for prisoners under trial before them.

By Representative Butler—An act declaring it a crime and providing a penalty for acting or attempting to act as an attorney-at-law in any court in this State without having been previously licensed as an attorney and counselor at law by the Supreme Court of the State. Referred to the same committee.

By Representative Letten—An act ordering and requiring parish or municipal corporations in this State to receive for taxes or licenses due any parish or municipal corporation prior to January 1, 1879, all valid warrants, scrip or evidences of indebtedness of said parish or municipal corporation.

By Representative Williams, of Terrebonne—An act entitled an act to provide for the payment of clerks and commissioners of election, and deputy sheriffs stationed at the various polling places throughout the State.

By Representative Young, of Iberia—An act to define and regulate the trial of injunction suits in country parishes wherein writs of *fieri facias*, executory process or orders of seizure and sale are enjoyed.

By Representative Baskin—An act concerning the New basin canal, shell road and appurtenances, providing for their management by a superintendent, defining the duties of his position, fixing his salary and wages of assistants, limiting the expenses of his office and locating it, determining how repairs shall be made, depth of water to be maintained, amount of dues to be collected, and establishing rules and regulations for its control and management. Referred to the special committee on the New basin when appointed.

By Representative Hathaway—An act to repeal sections 1 and 2 of an act entitled "An act for the protection of game animals and birds in the State."

By Representative Lucke—An act to appoint a State inspector of steam boiler operated on land in the State of Louisiana, and examine persons employed or engaged in operating said boiler; to give or withhold certificate of qualification of said person, and to give certificates of capacity of such steam boilers, and for other purposes.

IMPORTANT RESOLUTIONS.

Among the important resolutions of general interest offered in the House during the week, is the following presented by Mr. Cosgrove, of Natchitoches, and adopted under a suspension of the rules:

Resolved, That the Committee on Public Education be instructed to institute inquiry as to the amount due to the school teachers in the several parishes of the State for past services; to report the nature of these claims and some proper measure for their liquidation.

And the following offered by Mr. Harris, of DeSoto, and adopted today:

Resolved, That the chairman of the Committee on Soldier's Claims is authorized to give notice in the official journal of the times of the sittings of said committee, together with requests to clerk of courts and probable beneficiaries to forward such testimony as may be deemed essential by the committee.

The weather is delightful, business is good and a cheerful feeling prevails throughout the city.

OBSERVER.

# A REVIEW OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

NEW ORLEANS, February 5, 1880.

After being debarred from all participation in the proceedings of the Senate for more than a week, the four Republican Senators—Cohen, Demas, Simmes and Stewart—offered on Wednesday an explanation of their conduct in signing the memorial to the United States Senate, which reflected so severely upon the honor of the people of the State, and of the General Assembly. They disclaim, as did the members of the House, any knowledge of the contents of the memorial, and as no disrespect to the Senate was intended by them they ask that they be declared no longer in contempt, but that they be discharged and again be permitted to take part in the proceedings. No action has yet been taken upon their petition by the Senate and at the present time they remain under ban. The matter has alienated very general attention, and an effort is being made to show that the action of the Senate is improper and coercive. Senator Hear called the attention of the United States Senate to the case a few days ago, and introduced a resolution of inquiry as to whether any citizen of the United States had been debarred of any of his privileges for exercising his constitutional right to petition Congress. He probably expected that the resolution would provoke a heated political debate, resulting to the advantage of the Republican party, but this expectation was defeated. The resolution was adopted without debate or division, and the Massachusetts Senator made nothing by his motion. In the meantime the Republican State Senators have found themselves without a voice in the General Assembly, and their party friends powerless to help them. The courage based into them by the outside crowd have gradually oozed out, so it is said is the "tone of their last answer to the rule of contempt," and if the Senate is not satisfied with it, a more abject apology, it is safe to say, will be forthcoming.

THE REVENUE BILL.

The House took up the revenue bill on Monday, and has already completed the consideration of its more important provisions—the property to be taxed and the amount of taxation. In truth, the General Assembly has no discretion as to the first subject. The constitution requires that all property must be taxed, except such as is therein expressly exempted. The first bill presented by the Committee on Ways and Means proceeded to define what constituted property. This aroused much opposition, which was quieted by the new bill, inasmuch as it simply provides for the taxation of "property" without entering into an enumeration of taxable subjects. A new assessment is to be made for the current year (which is also provided for in the constitution) and the tax levy will be made upon that.

The amount of tax is fixed at six mills—one mill for the general fund, one mill for levee purposes, one mill for public education and three mills for the payment of the interest on the public debt. This last item was the subject of a prolonged and animated debate. It was agreed on all sides that three mills should be levied, because the product of three mills would be required to meet the interest if the bondholders should accept the alternative proposition of the debt ordinance and fund their bonds at seventy-five cents on the dollar in new bonds drawing 4 per cent interest. It was doubted by many if the bond-holders would do this, but all admitted that such a contingency should be provided for. The discussion arose on another point. On one side it was contended that the three mills for interest should be levied and collected, and the money placed in the treasury where it would be immediately available in the payment of interest due such of the bond-holders as accepted the settlement made by the debt ordinance, to whom it was to be paid, and no other. On the other side it was claimed that no more money should be collected for interest purposes than was absolutely necessary to meet the demands of those who formerly accepted the debt settlement made by the constitution. Those holding this view introduced an amendment providing that by the first day of July of each year, the Governor shall have computed the amount of interest due those bondholders who had accepted the terms of the debt ordinance, and on that day shall issue his proclamation to the tax collectors to collect the necessary per centage of the three mills tax to meet the ascertained interest demands upon the treasury. After the ablest and most interesting debate of the session the proposed amendment was adopted by a vote of 35 to 48.

Among those who took an active part in this debate was Mr. Cosgrove of Natchitoches. Both Mr. Cosgrove and Mr. Jackson voted with the minority. The former was one of the principal speakers. He held that the honor and good faith of the State required a faithful adherence to the terms of the debt ordinance, and that every precaution should be taken to prevent a default in the payment of the interest therein provided for. He was opposed to the grant of the extraordinary power conferred upon the Governor by the amendment, which virtually placed the control of the interest tax in his hands. He argued that it placed in the Governor's hands the taxing power, that belonged of right to the people and their direct representatives, and which should never be relinquished. He also opposed the amendment because it required the bondholders to signify their acceptance of the debt ordinance on or before the first day of July, whereas the constitution distinctly provided that it could be accepted at their option. These were the principal points in Mr. Cosgrove's speech. His views were logically and forcibly presented and made a marked impression. The morning papers all alluded to his speech in complimentary terms. The DEMOCRAT said:

In the lower branch of the General Assembly an animated and interested debate occurred yesterday over the revenue bill. A number of Representatives participated in the discussion, which was ably sustained on both sides. Among those who took part in it was Mr. James H. Cosgrove, of Natchitoches, who made a very able and forcible argument in behalf of the bill as reported by the Committee on Ways and Means. Mr. Cosgrove has already made his mark as a ready and effective debator, and his several speeches yesterday will largely add to his justly earned reputation. Logical, vigorous and in excellent taste, they contributed no little to render the debate the most interesting of the session.

The PICAYUNE spoke of the part Mr. Cosgrove took in the debate, as follows:

Mr. Cosgrove made an effective speech in support of the committee report and against the proposed amendment. The duty of the Legislature, he said, was to carry out to the letter the provisions of the debt ordinance which had been ratified by the voters of the State, and not to attempt to evade the responsibility placed therein. The duty of the Legislature was then to provide for the interest on the entire amount which the ordinance provides shall be funded. This interest shall become due semi-annually after January, 1880, and the necessary funds should be on hand to pay it. The speaker argued that nothing could compel the bondholder to fund immediately, nor could his delay to do so entail the loss of his interest. To sustain this position he quoted from the second section of the debt ordinance: "The holders of consolidated bonds may at any time present their bonds to the Treasurer of the State, or to an agent, etc., to be funded. Mr. Cosgrove did not fail to allude to the political dangers which might arise from an attempt to evade the provisions of the debt ordinance, and reminded his Democratic brethren that the party narrowly escaped a split in its ranks over the debt question last summer.

And the TIMES had this to say:

The discussion on the revenue bill, especially the interest clause, was spirited. A number of eloquent speeches were made pro and con. Among them, Mr. Cosgrove's was conceded to be an able effort, clear in its intent and meaning and sound in logic.

The revenue bill is still under discussion, and will not be finished until the latter part of next week. Among the sections thus far adopted, is one relative to the compensation of assessors in the country parishes. This provides that assessors shall receive three per cent upon all taxes assessed when the amount is under $40,000, and one per cent upon all taxes above $40,000, but that no assessor shall receive less than $800 a year for his services.

A MEMBER CHARGED WITH MAKING A CORRUPT PROPOSITION.

The Mayor of the city of New Orleans created a sensation on Tuesday last by a communication which he addressed to the Speaker of the House, in which he stated Major J. H. Behan, one of the city Administrators, had been approached by a member with a corrupt proposition, which, in substance, was that if the members of the City Council would raise the sum of $350 for distribution among the members of the House they would be retained in office until the end of the present year, and that if $7000 was raised their term of office would be extended to 1884 in the new charter for the city now before the House. In reply to the request of the House for the name of the member who had made the proposition Major Behan stated that it was Henry Heidenhain who is the only Republican in the city delegation. A committee was at once appointed to investigate the matter and began to take testimony yesterday. Heidenhain protests his innocence and says he is confident that the investigation will disclose that the charge against him is unfounded. The evidence thus far adduced before the committee does not sustain this view. It has been shown that the proposition was made to Major Behan by Heidenhain and thus far there is nothing to indicate the belief that it was not made seriously. All the facts look ugly for Heidenhain and there is every probability that he will have to go. No other member of the House appears to be mixed up in the affair.

THE NORTHWESTERN INSANE ASYLUM.

Mr. Cosgrove to-day introduced a bill to provide for the establishment of an insane asylum for the northwestern portion of the State of Louisiana to be located in the city of Natchitoches. The bill provides that the Governor shall appoint by and with the advice and consent of the Senate a board of administrators of the asylum to consist of five persons who shall retain in office two years and [illegible] Monday in each month, and who shall have power to fill all vacancies by resignation or otherwise. The president and any three members of the board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, or any four ident. The board shall have the power to make contracts, provided no member of the board is in any contract; to accept any donation or legacy in the name of the asylum, and for its use and to sue and be sued; to elect a secretary and treasurer, a general superintendent and other officers and employes and to furnish the legislature on the second Monday of each session, with a detailed statement of the annual operations of the asylum. The bill makes it the duty of district judges when informed that any insane person within his district ought to be sent to or confined in the asylum to issue a warrant and have said person brought before him that he may determine if such person should be sent to the asylum, and if he so determines, to issue an order to the sheriff of the parish to place such person in said asylum. The Board of administrators shall have power to admit other persons except those sent to the asylum by a district judge, under such rules and conditions as they may [illegible] all money obtained from this source shall be applied to the support of the institution. All persons confined in the asylum as insane shall be charged at a rate not less than [illegible] a month, unless it shall be certified by certain officials designated that such person is in indigent circumstances, and the certificate shall [illegible] be given upon proper [illegible] the fact. Any person who shall [illegible] pass upon the [illegible] of the asylum shall be punished by the municipal court or justice of the peace of Natchitoches, and any person who shall induce any inmate to escape shall be punished therefor by the district court. The board of administrators shall not have power to borrow money or contract any debt, [illegible] the appropriations made by the legislature and the revenues of the institution derived from other sources and any contract made by them in excess of such revenues shall not be binding upon the State. The bill contains a number of other provisions relative to the government of the asylum, the duties of its officers, etc.

NEW LEGISLATION PROPOSED.

Among the bills introduced during the week of a general character are the following:

By Senator Cunningham—An act to authorize the contesting of [illegible] to work on the public roads [illegible] levees. Also an act to regulate the registry of privileges and pledges on growing crops. Also, an act to repeal act No 41 of 1879.

By Senator Aby—An act to prohibit druggists and apothecaries who are not physicians, from prescribing medicine for persons.

By Senator Luckett—A bill to secure the claim of the State of Louisiana on the New Orleans and Pacific Railroad Company.

By Representative Farmer—An act to expedite and diminish the expenses of legislation, by making continuous the proceeding of the General Assembly during the full term for which it is elected.

By Representative Henry—An act to confer upon justices of the peace jurisdiction over the violation of police ordinances in the parishes throughout the State.

By Representative Devereux—An act to protect merchants throughout the State.

By Representative Cosgrove—An act to amend section [illegible] relative to telegraph companies.

By Representative Harris—An act [illegible]


CONTINUED ON FOURTH PAGE.