THE LEGISLATURE.

Eleventh Day.

THE SENATE.

There were 24 Senators present.

The printing bill passed its third reading, and was adopted.

The title of the bill was amended by Mr. Cunningham, by striking out the clause providing for the repeal of act No. 49, and adopted.

House bill No. 36, authorizing the State Treasurer to pay the Board of Supervisors of the Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College the old balance due the Seminary fund now on the books, passed its third reading, and the title was adopted.

A message was received from the House, informing the Senate of its refusal to concur in bill No. 30 for the payment of milege and per diem, etc., of the General Assembly, and asking for the appointment of a committee to confer with a committee from the House on the subject; also, calling the attention of the Senate to the concurrent resolution instructing our Representatives in Congress concerning certain public lands granted by the United States to railroad companies.

The chair appointed on the committee of conference Senators Fontenot, Davey and Cohen.

Senate bill transferring a certain balance now in the State treasury to the credit of the levee and drainage fund, to the credit of the engineer fund for levee purposes, was amended by Senator Walton, and passed its third reading, and was finally adopted.

House bill No. 14, for the repair of the State House at Baton Rouge, was finally adopted.

House bill No. 35, for the repair of the buildings occupied by the Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College was finally passed.

After executive session a message was received from the House, informing the Senate that the House had refused to concur in the Senate amendments to House bill No. 26, the general appropriation bill, and asking the Senate to appoint a committee to confer with a similar committee from the House to consider the subject.

The Chair appointed on the committee Senators Leake, Cunningham, Harris, Foster and Aby.

Senator Leake, chairman of the committee of conference appointed on the part of the Senate, submitted the report of the committee. They reported that the House committee refused to concur in reducing the general appropriation to six months and insist upon an appropriation for the year 1882. The House committee also refused to concur in striking out $4,900 for the board of liquidation; $2,400 for clerks; $2,500 for engraving baby bonds; $2,800 for board of liquidation.

The Senate unanimously adopted the report, and the House was informed thereof.

THE HOUSE.

76 members, a quorum, present.

Mr. Heidenhain, of Orleans, introduced a resolution authorizing the committee on contingent expenses of the House to pay to each of the clergymen who have opened the House with prayer, the sum of $50.

The resolution was adopted under suspension of the rules.

Mr. Vincent, of Calcasieu, introduced a resolution instructing the House committee on elections and qualifications to report without delay on the contested cases now before it.

The resolution was adopted under a suspension of the rules.

The Senate amendments were read.

Mr. Cosgrove, of Natchitoches, moved that the House disagree to the amendments of the Senate, and speaking to the question, Mr. Cosgrove said that he understood that the amendments were in division of the appropriations, and he understood that the purpose of the Senate was to avoid an extra session. He doubted the right of the Legislature to make appropriations for but six months and then to avoid an extra session. However, the bill as it went from the House commended against the necessity of an extra session, and he would show how it defeated it. The bill made appropriations for 1882. The Legislature at its meeting in May, 1882, would make appropriations for the year 1883 and 1884. In 1884, it would make appropriations for the year 1885 and 1886, and so on.

When the bill came from the Senate, the appropriations for the six months of 1882 would be exhausted before the next Legislature adjourned.

After the motion that the House disagree prevailed.

Mr. Atkins, of Claiborne, moved the appointment of a conference committee. Adopted. (Speaker Ogden in the chair.)

Mr. Delaunay, of East Feliciana, called the resolution introduced by him the previous day, which read as follows:

Whereas, Whereas, the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring, That the Governor of the State is hereby requested to invest the accumulated interest and now, or that may be in the Agent's hands, in United States bonds at as early a day in his discretion as the interest of the State may require.

Mr. Leche, of Orleans, moved to have the resolution lay on the table.

Mr. Atkins, of Claiborne, moved to amend by striking out the words "4 per cent."

The amendment was accepted by Gen. Munday, who moved its adoption.

The point was made that the resolution being a concurrent one, was in its nature an enactment of law and it would have to take the regular course.

The point was sustained by the Speaker.

On motion of Mr. Kavanaugh, of St. Landry, the resolution was referred to the committee on ways and means.

House bill No. 20, the license act, was taken up.

The amendments reported by the committee of the whole were adopted.

The further consideration of the bill was postponed to allow the committee on conference on the legislative appropriation bill to report.

The Committee reported that the Senate had disavowed any intention to cast contempt on the House, and recommended the adoption of the Senate amendments.

After some discussion the report of the committee on conference was adopted.

The Senate amendments were then concurred in by a vote of 60 years, 11 nays.

Mr. Stringfellow, of Red River, submitted the following communication:

NEW ORLEANS, December 17, 1881.

To the Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, House of Representatives, Louisiana:

Sir—At a meeting just held at the New Orleans Cotton Exchange, of committees from the Cotton, Produce and Stock Exchanges, it was moved that your committee be requested to delay any further action upon the license bill until these committees can confer with you, and beg you will appoint a time when they can be heard.

I remain, very respectfully,
WM. M. OWEN, Secretary.

Mr. Stringfellow asked that the House instruct the committee.

Mr. Ogden, of Bossier, said that, as a member of the committee on ways and means, he did not wish to be placed in default. If the committee spoken of in the communication could throw any light upon the license matter, he thought that he should be heard.

A motion to instruct the committee on ways and means to meet the committee proposed in the communication was tabled.

The consideration of the license bill was resumed.

A number of amendments correcting clerical errors were adopted.

An amendment offered by Mr. Chretien, exempting from the provisions of section 13, relating to licenses for peddlars, all peddlars or hawkers of vegetables, was adopted.

Mr. Ogden, of Bossier, offered an amendment providing for a license on persons selling soda water, mead, etc., assessing a license of $75 per annum when sales were $10,000 or more a year, and $50 license per annum when the sales were less than $10,000. The amendment required druggists selling soda water to take out this license.

The amendment was adopted.

An amendment authorizing a summary seizure and sale of any property found to enforce the collection of licenses on traveling agents, was adopted.

An amendment, by Mr. Heidenhain, of Orleans, requiring that licenses to traveling agents should state the house or houses represented, was adopted.

The bill was then considered engrossed and passed to its third reading.

The committee on enrollment, through its chairman, Mr. McCain, of Grant, reported House bill No. 14, an act making an appropriation for the State House at Baton Rouge.

A messenger from the Senate asked the concurrence of the House in Senate bill No. 1, an act creating a printing board and defining its duties relative to the State printer, etc. Also, asked the concurrence of the House in Senate bill No. 2, an act providing for the transfer of balances in the State Treasury to the credit of the drainings and levee fund to the general engineers fund.

The messenger announced, further, that the Senate unanimously insisted upon its amendments to House bill No. 26, the general appropriation bill, and asked the appointment of another conference committee.

The House committee to confer with the Senate on the general appropriation bill reported that they were unable to agree and asked to meet again.

Fourteenth Day.

SENATE.

The Senate was called to order by President Robertson at 11 o'clock, twenty-five Senators, and a quorum present.

Mr. Newton offered a concurrent resolution, which was adopted, requesting our Representatives in Congress to urge the passage of a national law appropriating the sum of $100,000 for the repair and keeping in order the Possum Fork Levee, in Arkansas county, Ark. This work is of great importance, as it protects thousands of acres of the best lands in Northern Louisiana and Southern Arkansas.

Mr. Fontenot in the chair.

Senate bill No. 6, entitled "an act to transfer certain unappropriated balances now in the hands of the State Treasurer and to accrue," came up on its second reading.

Sections 1 and 2, the former, that $1475 now in the hands of the State Treasurer, belonging to the militia fund, be transferred to the fund of 1882 for the maintenance, arming and equipping of the State militia; and the latter, that $7394 74, now in the hands of the State Treasurer belonging to the State House fund, be transferred to the general fund were adopted unanimously, but upon the following section there was some opposition:

Sec. 3. Be it further enacted, etc., That all moneys to accrue to said funds from collections not yet made, in excess of the interest due at two per cent. per annum on the consolidated State bonds of the State of Louisiana, and in excess of four per cent. per annum on the State bonds that may have been converted into bonds at the rate seventy-five cents on the dollar, as proposed by the ordinance relative to the State debt at the time of the promulgation of this act, are hereby transferred to the general fund of the years for which the same have been or will be collected.

Mr. Parlange offered the following proviso, which being accepted, the Senate adopted the third section as thus amended:

"Provided, sufficient of said moneys shall be retained in the interest fund to pay interest on the consolidated bonds at the rate of two per cent. per annum, up to the time any consolidated bonds may have been converted into the new series of bonds at seventy-five cents on the dollar, and to pay interest at the rate of four per cent. per annum from the time of such converstion until the first of January, 1882."

Mr. Leake announced that members of the committee on the part of the House on the general appropriation bill were upon the floor of the Senate, and moved that the Senate take a recess for half an hour in order that the conference committee on the part of the Senate might hold a conference with the same.

The motion was adopted, when the joint committee on conference withdrew.

After an hour of deliberation, the Senate Conference Committee returned recommending that the Senate insist upon its amendment.

The House having insisted upon their side of the question, a second conference committee was appointed as follows: Messrs. Cunningham, Walton, Watkins, Davey and Parlange, when another conference was held, after which the Senate, without further action thereon, took a recess until half-past 7 o'clock.

After being called to order by President Robertson, the Senate went into executive session; after which, House concurrent resolution, extending the business of the present extra session over to another extra session, provided the latter be called within thirty days after the expiration of the former, was taken up for action.

Mr. Watkins moved to amend by striking out the word "thirty" and insert thereof five.

The motion was lost by 10 nays to 9 yeas.

The concurrent resolution was then adopted, when the Senate took a recess until 10 o'clock, for the purpose of awaiting the arrival from the House of the enrolled general appropriation bill.

At that hour, the Senate was again called to order, when the Chief Clerk of the House was announced, bearing the enrolled bill, signed by the Speaker, and asking that the signiture of the President of the Senate be attached thereto.

The bill was signed by President Robertson and conveyed by Chief Clerk Trezevant to the Governor, who in half an hour signed the same, when, after the Senate was officially announced thereof that body adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House met at 11 o'clock, with Speaker Ogden and 72 members present.

The Senate announced a concurrent resolution requesting the State's representatives in Congress to secure an appropriation for the repair of Possum Fork Levee. Taken up and adopted on suspension on the rules on motion of Mr. Williams, of Morehouse.

Senate bills 1 and 2 were called up for first reading and were, by permission, referred, after being read the first time. House bill No. 8 was called up from committee. It is to provide stationery for the judicial officers. Laid over on Speaker's ruling.

House bill No. 10 laid over under ruling of the Speaker. A substitute for House bill No. 10 was presented and ordered printed.

House bill 22, to create a judicial expense fund board, to preside over and have general charge of the sale and disposition of State stamps, was called up.

The bill was amended and ordered engrossed and read a third time.

The Senate announced that it insisted on its amendments to the appropriation bill.

The committee on conference on the appropriation bill reported that the committee could not agree to the demands of the Senate committee on the subject.

The Governor returned House bills Nos. 14, 30, 35, and 36 with his signature

Mr. Robertson wanted the House to recede from its disagreement with the Senate on the appropriation bill.

A motion of Mr. Harris that a new committee of conference be appointed, and that the Senate be also requested to appoint a new committee, prevailed.

The committee was constitutrd of Messrs. Harris, Phipps, Robertson, Billin and Heidenhain.

House bill No. 41, from the committee on the Judicary, came up. It is a bill to define the law in reference to taxes due on delinquent property, or property forfeited for back taxes.

The House took a recess of ten minutes to wait for the license bill from the from the Enrollment Committee.

On reassembling at 3:30 o'clock, a message from the Senate announced the appointment of a new conference committee on the appropriation bill reported that it had agreed to recommend that the House recede from its objections.

Mr. Heidenhain, of the committee, made a minority report.

Mr. Cosgrove saw no reason why the House should abandon its sound and legal position on the subject.

Mr. Atkins thought it time to put an end to the discussion and was willing, for this reason, to withdraw from his position which he believed was the right one.

Mr. Jackson, of Natchitoches, urged a final disposal of the matter, and on his motion the House came to a vote, resulting in 50 ayes and 30 noes, by which the House agreed to recede from its position and to concur in the Senate amendments on the appropriation bill.

At 4 p. m., the license bill was called up recommitted to the Committee of Ways and Means, which has the effect to reopen it for discussion and amendment.

The House then took a recess.

At 9:24 o'clock the House was again called to order. The chairman of enrolled bills reported as properly enrolled House bill No. 26, the general appropriation bill and the Clerk announced that it had been signed by the Speaker.

Mr. Dudenhefer wanted to know if the bill had been properly and regularly collated and engrossed, the time in which it was done being unusually short.

The Speaker answered for the correctness of the work.

The House was then informed that that the bill had been signed by the Speaker.

At 9:45 the bill was returned with the Governor's signature.

The Senate announced its concurrence in the joint resolution to continue the business of the session into another session as unfinished business.

The House then adjourned.

Gov. McEnery received from Chief Clerk Trezevant the first installment of bills finally passed and signed by the presiding officers of the House and Senate, as follows:

Making an appropriation to defray the expenses of the General Assembly for the extra session.

Making an appropriation to repair the State House at Baton Rouge.

Making an appropriation to repair the building now occupied by the Louisiana State University and Mechanical and Agricultural College.

Authorizing the State Treasurer to pay over to the Supervisors of the above college the old balance on his books belong to the seminary fund.

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