

HOUSE REFUSED TO DIVIDE DADE.

Continued from First Page.

been most pleasant, but I have heard the argument before the committee, and I am in favor of division in spite of my friendship for these men, and I say, 'Let justice be done though the heavens fall.'

Mr. MacWilliams thought the House could not go far astray if the members were guided by the Representative from Dade. The Senate had voted with Senator Hudson because it was his measure, and he probably represented the sentiment of one section of the county. He thought the House should vote with Mr. Watson, because he represented the voice of his people. The failure of the Sheriff to enforce the law and the length of the county did not appeal to him as reasons why the county should be divided.

Mr. Olmstead had gained from the farmers of that section that they preferred not to have the county divided.

Mr. Reese said that the gentleman from St. Johns (MacWilliams) talked and talked without offering any argument. Senator Hudson, he said, was charged with the same duty of representing all the people as was the Representative in the House, and the Senator did not represent merely a portion of the people of Dade when he asked for division. Mr. Reese read an editorial from the Miami Metropolis, which said that ninety per cent of the people in North Dade didn't care whether it was divided per cent in South Dade didn't care whether it was divided or not.

Mr. MacWilliams asked Mr. Reese if he had not on the day preceding voted against the division of Volusia.

Mr. Reese—I did, and would do it again. The case of Dade and that of Volusia are not at all alike; there's no comparison.

Mr. Malone—Does the gentleman from Escambia think that mismanagement is any argument in favor of division? If so, Escambia should be divided, judging from recent newspaper accounts of conditions in that county.

Mr. Reese—When there is a probability that mismanagement will continue an injustice to the people, I say "Yes," but in Escambia, there is no probability that the mismanagement will continue, thank God.

Mr. Reese contended that the question should be decided by the Legislature; it would be unconstitutional to insert any clause submitting it to the people, as had been suggested by the gentleman from Dade. The Legislature only had the right to determine the question.

Mr. Knowles regarded it as a local matter entirely, and the wishes of the Representative from Dade should be deferred to. The contrary opinion should not be shoved down the throat of the representative from Dade.

Mr. Carter—Are you in favor of Senatorial courtesy getting a foothold in this House?

Mr. Knowles: "When it comes to local legislation, I am, sir."

Mr. Farris did not intend to speak on the subject at all, but he was inclined to espouse the cause of the weak always. It appeared to him that a minority of the people of Dade were being imposed upon by a majority, and as the majority was represented by the gentleman from Dade he would raise his voice for the minority. Mr. Farris offered an affidavit signed by citizens of Dade, stating that Mr. Watson had been approached before leaving for Tallahassee and said he was not in favor of division because he was in business at Miami and it would injure his business to have the county divided; furthermore, some of his customers had threatened to boycott him if he favored division.

Mr. Watson denied the statements contained in the affidavit. Mr. Farris asked Mr. Watson if he had not voted for the division of Brevard County at the last session.

Mr. Watson: "Yes, I voted for it because the Representative from Brevard wanted it."

Mr. Malone asserted that he had no intention of butting in the discussion, but he presumed he had as much right to do so as other members. He regarded the matter as local; that the Representative from the county which it was proposed to divide represented the voice of his people when he said that they did not want division. Mr. Farris but a few days ago had railroaded a bill through the House pertaining to the charter of Jacksonville, yet he learned from a paper published in Jacksonville that there was opposition to such a measure, yet it was a local measure, and while the Representative from Duval did not represent the unanimous opinion of his constituency he took it that a majority favored the measure, and the House passed it without question.

On the motion to indefinitely postpone, the vote was:

In favor of postponement: Mr. Speaker, Messrs. Abernethy, Bradshaw, Clarke, Cobb, Decker, Donegan, Dorman, Durrance, Faulkner, Griggs, Hartsfield, Hooker, Jones, Kirkland, Knight, Knowles, Lassitter, McCuecheon, McKenzie, MacWilliams, Malone, Mathews, Melton, Morrison, Neel, Olmstead, Paul, Peeples, Roddenberry, Rowe, Russell, Snell, Taylor, Wartmann, Watson, Wells, Willis (Gadsden), Wilson (Calhoun), Wilson (Lee)—40.

Against postponement: Messrs. Avant, Baggett, Calkins, Carter, Crawford, Duke, DuPont, Farris, Harvell, Long, McClellan, Ogilvie, Parkinson, Pettigrew, Reese, Register, Smith, Williams, Wilson (Hernando)—20.

Mr. Decker gave notice that he would move reconsideration.

Paired: Richbourg nay, Thompson yea; Williams nay, Dudley yea.

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FIFTY THOUSAND FOR FAIRS.

Fight Was Pitched About Tampa Appropriation.

The House yesterday morning ordered engrossed three bills carrying appropriations for fairs, the chief of which was that of \$30,000 for the Tampa exhibition.

The contest was pitched about the Tampa appropriation. It was the first on the list, and it was known in advance that if the Tampa project was given recognition the others would follow without fretting.

Argument on the Tampa bill began Tuesday morning, Mr. Reese opposing and Mr. MacWilliams, Mr. Richbourg and Mr. Abernethy advocating its passage.

Mr. Mathews of Marion opened the discussion yesterday morning on the motion to indefinitely postpone. He said the principle was undemocratic and unfair to the people.

Mr. Mathews said that Mr. Richbourg had painted a picture of the waves touching the mountain tops that had charmed his heart with poesy, but he was reminded of Byron's lines, that man marked the land with ruin. Mr. Mathews was glad that the hand of man did not control the sea, for if it did he was certain it would appropriate the water for the Tampa fair. Mr. Mathews did not believe in playing to the galleries upon the pretext of doing something for the public good which was really designed to build up private corporations. He regarded the proposition as totally unjust and would vote against it.

Mr. Howe thought the fairs in the interest of all the people, and could not adopt the views of the gentleman from Marion.

Mr. DuPont offered an amendment to make the amount \$15,000 for the two years, contending that Tampa wanted too much, to the detriment of other sections of the State. "It's a fair proposition," thundered Mr. DuPont. And there was no one to say that it wasn't a fair proposition.

Mr. Wilson of Hernando failed to see any greed in the measure; he regarded the promoters of the fair as public-spirited men, moved to risk their own capital for the public good. He moved to place Mr. DuPont's amendment on the table, and this action obtained.

Mr. Clarke of Jefferson offered an amendment, striking out the word Tampa, and inserting Monticello. This amendment failed, and Mr. Clarke offered another, striking out the figures fifteen thousand dollars and inserting in lieu thereof, fifteen cents. Strangely enough this amendment failed.

Mr. Knight of Citrus spoke earnestly in favor of the measure. He had seen the good accomplished by the Tampa fair, and thought the money would be well placed.

Mr. Reese referred to a letter from the industrial agent of the Atlantic Coast Line, which had been read to the House by Mr. MacWilliams, telling of the benefits that had come to the State through the last fair, and advising that the appropriation should be made. Mr. Reese said it was not strange that the railroads should favor the fair; it was money in their pocket to do it; but these people who are always ready to put their hands in the treasury of the State send their agents to Tallahassee to defeat every measure that seeks to levy upon them a just proportion of taxes. Mr. Reese made specific reference to the franchise tax bill which had been defeated in the Senate. Mr. Reese said that any county could file a bill of injunction against the use of the money appropriated and the courts would sustain it, because it was clearly unconstitutional.

Mr. Wells interrupted Mr. Reese to ask if he thought that Governor Broward would sign a bill that was unconstitutional, that the Governor had signed the Tampa fair appropriation passed by the last Legislature.

Mr. Reese—The Governor is not a lawyer, but I believe he is an honest man and one of the biggest men the State of Florida ever saw. But two wrongs don't make a right, and under our oath as members of this body we are called upon to vote against this measure, because it is unconstitutional. We haven't the right to make this appropriation, nor would we have the right to levy a tax for it.

Mr. Reese read an editorial from the Polk County Record saying that many of the business men of Tampa were opposed to the fair.

Mr. MacWilliams contended that the Legislature had the right to make appropriations for the general good of the people, and the fair appropriation was directed to that end. He had acted on the board of judges at the previous fair, and had served without compensation, but the service had been gladly given, for it gave him satisfaction to help along so worthy a cause. Mr. MacWilliams gave testimony to the worth of Governor Broward and his sound judgment. Governor Broward, however, had not been the only Governor who had signed such appropriation bills. Former Governor Jennings, who is a lawyer, had passed on the same question while in the executive chair, and such action had never been questioned.

Mr. Willis had a joker amendment to insert Williston in the place of Tampa.

Mr. DuPont made an effort to call up his bill for the inland waterway exposition to be considered with the other fair bills, but his ancient antagonist, Crawford of Orange, objected.

The other fair bills ordered engrossed for third reading were: One for the appropriation of \$4,000 for the West Florida Fair Association at DeFuniak; one for \$15,000 for the Middle Florida fair at Madison.

The vote to indefinitely postpone was lost by 25 to 38.

GEOLOGICAL BILL PASSES IN SENATE.

Senator Crill's bill providing for the establishment of a geological survey of Florida and the appointment of a Geologist, passed in the Senate yesterday.

An appropriation of \$7,500 is named in the bill for carrying out its provisions.

Such a bill has been introduced at many sessions, but has never passed both houses, but friends of the measure are hoping that a different story may be told this time, as such a law is among the needs of the State.

AFTERNOON TEA.

The public is cordially invited to meet the grandmothers and old ladies of Tallahassee at an afternoon tea to be given at the residence of Mrs. W. V. Knott, on Thursday; hours 4 to 7.

INSURANCE BILL SET FOR MONDAY.

Indefinite Postponement Urged, But Torture of Bill Saved for Another Day.

Several long knives were all ready to scalp the insurance bill of Senator Trammell when the President announced that the hour had arrived for its consideration under a special order.

The torture of the bill was postponed, however, until next Monday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock.

Senator Trammell, who was unwell, asked that the bill be put on the table subject to call. Furthermore, he did not want to take up the time of the Senate until the House had acted.

"Set a certain day for it then," demanded Mr. Buckman.

President Harris walked to the end of the rostrum, and looking at Senator Buckman, said in a stage whisper: "Move indefinite postponement."

This the Senator from the Eighteenth did and Senator Trammell objected.

Mr. Harris then called Mr. Adams to the chair, preparatory to the engagement of attack on the bill. Those who can remember as far in the past as the session of 1905 will recall that Mr. Harris gained more or less notoriety for having "talked the insurance bill to death."

Senator Buckman receded and said that if Mr. Trammell would agree to a certain day he would withdraw his motion for indefinite postponement.

Mr. Trammell agreed, and the bill was set for Saturday, when Mr. Harris, declaring he wanted fairness to the bill, but objected to delay, proposed Monday morning, and finally Monday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock was fixed.

SENATE AMENDS ZIM'S LABOR BILL.

Senator Zim's bill to create a Commissioner of a Bureau of Labor and Industrial Statistics, was taken up in the Senate yesterday, amended and referred to the Committee on Engrossed Bills.

The salary of the Commissioner was cut from \$2,500 to \$1,800, and the bill was further amended by placing the office under the supervision of the Commissioner of Agriculture.

WILL MAKE MORE REVENUE.

The House yesterday considered for several hours in Committee of the Whole, with Mr. Watson in the chair, the bill for imposing licenses, and, upon report to the House, it was passed to be engrossed. It is estimated that the new law will increase the revenue by one hundred thousand dollars by taxing several lines of business that have heretofore escaped license tax, among these are the naval stores factors. In very few instances were the license taxes increased.

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