THE UNION TIMES.

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CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.

THE NEXT BIG POLITICAL EVENT IN THE STATE.

Full Text of the Act Providing for the Election of Delegates—Every Voter Should Read This Act.

Sec. 1. That a convention of the people of South Carolina is hereby ordained to be assembled in the city of Columbia on the second Tuesday in September in the year of our Lord 1895 for the purpose of revising, amending or changing the Constitution of the State.

Sec. 2. This said convention shall consist of a number of Senators and Representatives of which the General Assembly is now composed, who shall be elected at an election held on the third Tuesday in August Anno Domini 1895, as hereinafter provided.

Sec. 3. The several counties shall be entitled to elect and send to the said convention a number of delegates equal to the whole number of Senators and Representatives which said county is now entitled to send to the General Assembly, and the delegates to the said convention shall be entitled to the same freedom from arrest in going to and returning from and while attendinding said convention as is granted the members of the Legislature by existing laws.

Sec. 4. Every male citizen of the United States and of this State of the age of twenty-one years not laboring under the disabilities named in the Constitution of this State, and duly qualified to vote under the existing laws of the State, and duly registered as now required by law, or who, having been entitled to register as a voter at the time of the general registration of electors in this State, which took place in the year of our Lord 1892, or a tany time subsequent thereto, failed to register at such time as required by law, or who has become a citizen of this State and who will register as hereinafter provided in such cases, shall be entitled to vote for delegates to said convention.

Sec. 5. Every person entitled to vote for delegates to said convention shall be eligible to a seat therein.

Sec. 6. That on the first Monday of March, in the year of our Lord 1895, the Supervisor of Registration of each county shall, at the county seat thereof, open his books of registration, and shall hold the same open for eighteen calendar days thereafter, between the hours of 10 o'clock in the forenoen and 4 o'clock in the afternoon, except Charleston, Beaufort and Richland counties, which shall be from 10 a. m. to 6 p. m., during which time any elector then or theretofore at any time entitled to register as a qualified voter, or who has become a citizen of this State, and be, during the time herein fixed for such registration, and also on the days now fixed by law for registration, entitled to register as such as hereinafter provided; and any elector having been heretofore duly registered, or having since changed his residence, or having lost his certificate, shall be entitled to have the same transferred or renewed as now provided by law.

Sec. 7. Any elector who shall have been entitled to register at the general registration in the year of our Lord 1892, or at any time subsequent thereto, and who failed to register at such time as required by law, and who shall make application under oath, in accordance with a printed form to be prepared by the Attorney General, setting forth in each case the fact, to-wit: The full name, age, occupation and residence of the applicant at the time of the said general registration, or at any time thereafter when the said applicant became entitled to register, and the place or places of his residence since the time when he became entitled to register, which affidavit shall be supported by the affidavits of two reputable citizens, who were each of the age of twenty-one years on the 30th day of June, Anno Domino 1892, or at the time the said applicant became entitled thereafter to register, or any elector who has become a citizen of this State by moving into the same, according to the Constitution of the State, and who shall make application under oath, stating the time of his moving into the State and his place of residence since living in the State, which application shall be supported by the affidavit of two reputable citizens, who were twenty-one years of age at the time the applicant became a resident of this State: such applicant shall be allowed to register as a voter, and to have issued to him a certificate as a duly qualified elector in the manner and form now provided by law, and be entitled to vote at said election for delegates to said convention.

Sec. 8. At such election the Supervisor of Registration shall furnish the managers at each precinct with one of the registration books for such precinct, for the care and custody for which the managers receiving the same shall be responsible, and which they shall return to the Supervisor of Registration within three days after the close of the election, and no elector shall be entitled to vote whose name is not registered as hereinbefore or already provided by law, and who does not produce his registration certificate at the polls where he offers to vote.

Sec. 9. For the purpose of said election it shall be the duty of the Governor, and he is hereby authorized and empowered, at least thirty days before election, to appoint for each county three commissioners of election, which commissioners shall assemble at the county seat at least two weeks before the date of election, and organize themselves into a board of commissioners by electing one of their number as chairman and take the oath prescribed in Section 30 of Article II of the Constitution and the oath against duelling, and they may elect some suitable person as clerk, and the chairman shall administer to him the oaths aforesaid, and all of said oaths shall be filed in the office of the Clerk of Court of General Sessions and Common Pleas, and if there be no such duly qualified clerk in any county, then in the office of the Secretary of State. The said commissioner shall appoint three managers of election for each precinct in his county as now provided by law, and notify them by mail of said appointment: and shall also have published a notice of election and names of managers, as now provided by law for general elections. The said commissioners shall make requisition upon the County Supervisor for one ballot-box for each precinct in their county, to be constructed as hereinafter directed, and the County Supervisor shall furnish the same, to be paid for by the County Board of Commissioners out of any County funds not otherwise appropriated.

Sec. 10. One of the managers appointed as provided in the preceding section shall, previous to the day of election, procure from the commissioners of election, the ballot-box, papers and registration book for his precinct. The board of manager for each precinct shall meet on or before the day of election and organize themselves into a boad of managers by electing one of their number chairman and some suitable person as clerk. The chairman may then administer the oath prescribed in Article II, Section 30, of the Constitution, and the oath against duelling, to each member of the board and the clerk, and the clerk may in time administer the same oaths to the chairman. The same oatht may be administered by any other officer authorized to administer oaths, and shall be filed in the office of the Clerk of Court of Common Pleas and General Sessions, and if there be no such duly qualified clerk in any county, then in the office of the Secretary of State.

Sec. 11. The polls shall be open at such places as are now designated and appointed by law at 7 o'clock in the forenoon of the day of election and closed at 6 o'clok in the afternoon of the same day, and shall be kept open during these hours without intermission or adjournment, and the managers shall administer to each person offering to vote an oath that he is qualified to vote at this election according to the Constitution and laws of the State, and that he has not voted during the election.

Sec. 12. The deputy State constables and other peace officers of each county shall at this election act as now provided by law for general elections.

Sec. 13. The voting shall be by ballot, which shall be of plain white paper, two and a half inches wide by five inches long, clear and even cut without ornament, description, matilation, symbol, or mark of any kind whatsoever except the names of the persons voted for, which names shall be written or printed, or partly written or partly printed, and if printed, in black ink, and such ballot shall be folded so as to conceal the name or names thereon, and so folded shall be deposited in a box, to be constructed, kept and disposed of as hereinafter provided, and no ballot of any other description found in any ballot-box shall be counted.

Sec. 14. An opening shall be made in the lid of each election box large enough for a single ballot to be inserted at one time, through which opening each ballot proper to be received shall be inserted by the person voting, and no other. Each box shall be provided with a sufficient lock and key, and shall be publicly opened and inspected to show that it is empty and secure, and locked before the opening of the poll and the key returned to the manager of election, and said box shall not be opened during the hours for voting. At each precinct a space or inclosure such as the managers deem proper and sufficient, shall be railed og, or otherwise provided with an entrance of the voter at one end or side and an opening at the other for his exit, as a polling place. But one voter shall be allowed to enter any polling place at a time and no one except the managers shall be allowed to speak to the voter while in the polling place casting his vote.

Sec. 15. Each clerk of the poll shall keep a poll list, which shall contain a column headed "Names of Voters,' and the name of each elector voting shall be entered in such column.

Sec. 16. At the close of the election the managers and clerk shall immediately proceed publicly to open the ballot-box and count the votes therein, and continue such count, without interruption or adjournment, until the same is completed, and make statement of the result and sing the same. If in counting, two or moae like ballots shall be found folded together compactly, only one shall be counted, and the others destroyed, but if they have different names, all shall be destroyed and none counted. If more ballots shall be found in the box upon opening it than there are names on the poll list, all the ballots shall be returned to the box thoroughly mixed together, and one of the managers or clerk shall, without seeing the ballots, draw therefrom and immediately destroy as many ballots as there are in excess of the number of names on the poll list. Within three days thereafter the chairman of the board of managers or one of them, or some other suitable person, appointed as messenger in writing and taking the oath prescribed for the managers, shall deliver to the commissioners of election the poll list, the box containing the ballots and a written statement of the result of the election in the precinct.

Sec. 17. The commissioners of election shall meet at the county seat on the Tuesday next following the election before 1 o'clock in the afternoon of that day and shall proceed to organize as the county board of canvassers. They shall organize by electing one of their number as chairman. They may appoint some competent person to act as secretary. The chairman shall then administer the constitutional oath to each member of the board of canvassers, and to the secretary, and the secretary shall in turn administer the same to the chairman. They shall then proceed to canvass the votes and make statement thereof within ten days from the time of their meeting as a board of county canvassers, and shall transmit the same to the board of State canvassers, together with any protests and all papers pertaining to the election. They shall make duplicate statements and file the same in the office of the Clerk of Court of General Sessions and Common Pleas of the county, and if there be no such duly qualified clerk then with the Secretary of State. There shall be prepared by the canvasrers three separate lists of each statement besides the list to be filed with the Clerk of Court, and each list shall be certified as correct by the signatures of the board of county canvassers subscribed to such certificate. Upon the final adjournment of the board of county canvassers, and within the ten days prescribed above, the chairman of said board shall forward to the Governor and Secretary of State by a messenger the returns, poll list and all papers appertaining to the election. The said messenger to be paid his actual expenses upon a certificate to be furnished him by the Secretary of State out of the funds provided for the expenses of said convention. No per diem milcage or other compensation shall be paid to the commissioners of election, managers of election, or clerks appointed by them.

Sec. 18. The Secretary of State shall appoint a meeting of the board of State canvassers to be held at his office or some convenient place within ten days next after the said election for the purpose of canvassing the votes thereof.

Sec. 19. The Secretary of State, Comptroller General, Attorney General, State Treasurer, Adjutant and Inspector General and the chairman of the Committee of Privileges and Elections of the House of Representatives shall constitute the Board of State Canvassers, four of whom shall be a quorum. If a majority of these officers shall be unable to attend, the President of the Senate, being notified by the Secretary of the State, shall attend without delay, and with the officers attending shall form the board of State of canvassers. The board when thus formed and organized shall open the certified returns of the boards of county canvassers, proceed to make a statement of the whole number of votes cast at such election, and for each of the persons voted for thereat. They shall certify such statement to be correct, and subscribe the same with their proper names and file the same in the offic of the Secretary of State.

Sec. 20. The Secretary of State shall thereupon issue to each person elected a delegate to such convention a certificate of such election under his official seal.

Sec. 21. Every person who shall vote at said election, who is not entitled to vote, and every person who shall by force, intimidation, deception, fraud, bribery or undue influence control the vote of any elector to be cast for any candidate other than as is intended or designed by such elector, or who shall violate any of the foregoing provision in regard to elections shall be punished by a fine not exceeding $1,000, or by imprisonment in jail not exceeding twelve months, or both, in the discretion of the court.

Sec. 22. Every person, who being appointed a commissioner or manager of election, or clerk, to either the board of managers or of commissioners, shall refuse or fail to act as such, without lawful excuse, or who, acting as such, shall fail to open a poll at the time and place required of them by this Act, or to keep the same open as herein required, or shall make or aid in making any false count or return of votes cast, or shall committ any fraud in the management of said election, shall be punished as provided in the preceding section.

Sec. 23. In case any one of the persons duly appointed manager of the election shall fail to appear and act as manager at the time and polling place appointed for holding said election, the other two managers are hereby authorized and required to appoint from bystanders some competent person to act as manager in the place and stead of the person so failing to act, and shall administer to him the oaths aforesaid. In case any two of the persons duly appointed to act as managers at any polling place shall fail to appear and act at the time and place appointed for holding such poll, the one duly appointed manager who shall appear and act is hereby authorized and required to appoint from the bystanders two competent persons to act as managers in the place and stead of the absent managers, and shall administer to them the oaths aforesaid.

Sec. 24. That said convention shall assemble in the city of Columbia in the Hall of the house of Representatives on the second Tuesday in September, Anno Domini 1895, at 12 o'clock noon, and shall be called to order by the Secretary of State.

Sec. 25. That the members of said convention shall receive as compensation $2.00 per diem and 5 cents per mile coming to and returning from the same. That should any vacancy or vacancies occur in the representation in any county by death, resignation or otherwise, the same shall be filled by election by order of the Secretary of State, in the same manner as vacancies in the House of Representatives are now filled, except that the notice of said election shall be ten days, which said election shall be conducted by the same commissioners and by managers to be appointed by them and under the same rules and regulations above provided for the first election.

Sec. 26. That the sum of $30,000, if so much be necessary, be, and the same is hereby, appropriated to defray the expenses of said convention including the per diem and mileage of the delegages.

Sec. 27. The State Librarian is hereby authorized and required to purchase for the use of the delegates to the convention hereinbefore provided for, eighty (80) sets of the "American Constitution:" by George A. Glynn, N. Y., the cost of same to come out of and be paid for from the $30,000 herein provided for in Section 26 of this Act. The cost of same not to exceed the sum of $400.

Sec. 28. That the State Librarian is hereby required to distribute and forward to the Clerk of Court of each county, for the use of the delegates, as soon as elected, its pro rata share of the above books.

Sec. 29. That upon the adjournment of said convention the delegates shall return to the State Librarian the said books, taking his receipt for the same, and the Librarian shall deposit two copies of said books with each of the following educational institutions, to-wit: Clemson College, the Winthrop Normal Industrial College, the South Carolina College, the Claflin University and the Citadel Academy, and six copies in the State Library.

Sec. 30. That the remaining copies shall be sold by the State Librarian at such prices as may be fixed by the Governor, the Attorney General and the State Librarian, the proceeds of such sales to be turned over to the State Treasury.

METROPOLITAN POLICE LAW.

FULL TEXT OF A FAMOUS ACT.

The State Board is Authorized to Appoint Public Commissioners in Cities of One Thousand Inhabitants.

Section 1. That on and after the passage of this act, whenever the Governor, the Secretary of State and the Comptroller General shall deem it advisable or necessary for the better and more perfect government of any city and incorporated town in this State of more than 1,000 inhabitants, a board composed of the Governor, Secretary of State and the Comptroller General shall appoint a Board of Police Commissioners, to consist of three members, for such city or incorporated town. Such commissioners shall have been qualified electors and freeholders of such city at least one year next prior to their appointment. The official term of such commissioners shall be co-terminal with that of the said State board appointing them, and until their successors be appointed and qualified, but such commissioners, or any one of them, may be removed and the vacancy or vacancies filled by the said State board at any time they may deem such removal expedient or necessary to promote the object of the original appointment, and so long as it may be deemed necessary or expedient by said State board or their successors to continue said State board shall make a new appointment of the same or other commissioners for the succeeding term, to-wit: co-terminal with the term of such said State board and until their successors be appointed and qualified, if such enforcement of the laws of this State in any city or incorporated town under police regulation be continued under this act. Before entering upon their duties, such commissioners shall each take and subscribe and cause to be filed in the office of the Secretary of State an oath of office for the faithful discharge of their duties and the usual constitutional oaths required of public officers, and if the appointee shall, for ten days after notification of appointment, fail to cause such oaths to be filed as aforesaid, his appointment shall be revoked and a new appointment shall be made by said State board; and the said State board shall have power to fill any vacancy in said board at any time, whether caused by death, removal, resignation or any other cause, or may, in their discretion, remove any member or members of said board if in their opinion he or they fail to perform any duty according to the intent of this act. One of the said board shall be designated by the said State board to be president and another as secretary of said board. The annual salary of said commissioners shall be not less than fifty dollars nor more than three hundred dollars, to be fixed by the said State board within these limits in proportion to the population of the particular city in question. But the secretary may be allowed a sum not exceeding fifty dollars in addition to his salary as a commissioner. Said salaries shall be paid out of the town or city treasury in like manner as the salaries of town or city officers.

Sec 2. Such Board of Police Commissioners shall immediately appoint a marshal, who shall be chief of police, and the necessary commissioned officers, who shall give bond in an amount equal to that required on the 18th day of December, 1894, of similar officers under the ordinances of such cities and towns, subject to the orders of the board, and as many policemen as may be deemed necessary by the board, not exceeding one for every one thousand inhabitants, and who shall have been residents of such city or town at least six months prior to their appointment. The marshal and policemen shall hold their respective offices co-terminally with the board appointing them, subject, however, to removal at any time by a majority vote of the Board of Police Commissioners. The marshal and policemen so appointed shall have exclusive power, and it shall be their duty, to serve all process issued by the mayor, intendant or city recorder, and all notices and papers issued by the Board of Police Commissioners. They, the said marshal and policemen, shall have and exercise all the common law and statutory power of constables within such city, except for the service of civil process, and they shall also have all the powers now had and exercised by policemen under the laws of the State and the ordinances of such city. Provided, that no city or town shall be liable in damages for any of the acts of the marshals or policemen or officials appointed under the provisions of this act.

Sec. 3. The Board of Police Commissioners shall keep and maintain an office at the council chamber, police court room or some station house or other convenient place, and shall meet in regular session every month, and in special session at any other time upon written request of any member to each other member who is in the city. Any regular session may be adjourned for a period not exceeding four days. Two members shall constitute a quorum at any regular or adjourned session, or at any special session properly called and notified. The concurrence of two members shall be sufficient to decide any question properly coming before the board. It shall be the duty of the Board of Police Commissioners to fill all vacancies in the offices of marshal and policemen. The Board of Police Commissioners shall have entire control of the police force of such city, its organization, government and discipline, and entire control of all station houses, city prisons, patrol wagons, books, records, equipments and all other property belonging to the police department, and shall audit all claims against said department and certify the same to the mayor and council for payment when correct: and it shall be the duty of said mayor and council to pay all of such claims when so credited, certified and presented. And it shall be the further duty of said mayor and council to levy and collect annually a tax sufficient to pay the salaries and all expenses of the Board of Police Commissioners, marshals and policemen, and of all the expenses for the operation and maintenance of said police department, and a writ of mandamus or proper process shall be at the suit of the Board of Police Commissioners against the municipal authorities of such city to compel the levy and collection of such annual tax and the payment of such expenses by them. It shall be the duty of the Board of Police Commissioners to make general and special rules for its own government and for the government and regulation of the police department, and to make and promulgate proper orders to the police force through the marshal.

Sec. 4. The board may, on the application of any person or persons showing sufficient cause therefor, in the discretion of the board, appoint any number of policemen, not exceeding in all the regular number of policemen at any one time, to do duty at designated place or places in the city, at the expense of the person or persons by whom such application shall be made, and the city shall not pay any such special policemen so appointed, and such special policemen shall not be required to do duty at any other than the designated place or places, but in all other respects they shall obey all rules and regulations of the board and all orders from the marshal. The board may also, with the consent of the said State board, appoint such number of special policemen for general duty in the city as may be deemed advisable, but such special policemen shall not serve longer than two successive days without new appointments being made in like manner, and they shall not be paid at a rate exceeding that of the regular policemen.

Sec. 5. It shall be the duty of the mayor and council of any such city to provide at its expense all necessary accommodations for the sessions of the board, and to provide a police court room, station houses and prisons, and to furnish, warm and light the same; to furnish food for prisoners; to provide for the monthly payment of the marshal and policemen, on the certificate of the board as to the amount due each; also for such office expenses, records, books, stationery, printing, telegraphing, badges, clubs and the repair and cleaning of police buildings, as may be necessary—it being the true intent and meaning of this act that all the necessary expenses of the police department shall be borne by the city out of its general revenue fund, notwithstanding the government of such department is vested exclusively in said board.

Sec. 6. Neither the mayor nor the council, nor any officer appointed by them, shall have any government of the police force, and the city treasurer shall not pay any of the police force except upon the certificate of said board. Any person or persons who shall in any manner interfere with or interrupt said board, or the police, judge, marshal or policemen so appointed, while in the legal performance of duty, shall, upon conviction thereof before the Court of General Sessions of the county wherein such city is located, be adjudged guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall be fined in any sum not less than one hundred dollars nor more than one thousand dollars, or may be imprisoned in the county jail not less than ten days nor more than ninety days, for each offense.

Sec. 7. Every police judge, marshal and policeman appointed under this act shall be a qualified elector of such city, and before entering upon the discharge of his official duties shall take and subscribe and cause to be filed with the board an official constitutional oath and for the faithful discharge of duty.

Sec. 8. The annual salaries of the following named officers shall be fixed by order of the board within the following limits, namely: The marshal, not less than two hundred dollars nor more than two thousand dollars per annum, and the policemen each not less than ten dollars nor more than sixty dollars per month.

Sec. 9. All fines and forfeitures collected by the mayor, intendent or city recorder upon charges for the violation of the laws of this State shall be by him paid into the county treasury of the county in which each city is located, for the use of the common school fund of such county. All fines and forfeitures collected by the mayor, intendant or city recorder upon charges for the violation of city ordinances, and all fees of officers collected by the mayor, intendant or city recorder under any act of the Legislature or city ordinance, for services shall be by him paid into the city treasury for the use of the general revenue fund of such city.

Sec. 10. During the time that the police government of any city is administered under this act, all acts of the Legislature and all ordinances of such city in so far as the same are in conflict or inconsistent with this act shall be suspended and shall remain inoperative.

Sec. 11. When the government of such city under this act shall cease, the board shall turn over to the city clerk all the records and papers of the board, and thereafter they shall be deemed records and papers of the city clerk's office.

Sec. 12. Whenever the said State board shall deem it no longer necessary to continue the government of any such city in the manner provided for by this act, the said State board shall issue and cause to be published in a daily paper published at the State capital their proclamation to that effect, and thereupon the mayor and council shall reassume the government of the police of such city, under the ordinances and laws thereof as existing prior to this act, appointing such officers as may be appointed and providing for the election of such officer or officers as may be elective; and to that end, if there be a vacancy in such contingency in any elective office, the mayor and council shall have power and authority to fill such vacancy by appointment until an election may be held; and the functions and salary of the marshal and the policemen and of the Board of Police Commissioners shall cease and determine upon the appointment and qualification of a police force by the mayor and council after such proclamation. That nothing in this act contained shall be so construed as to disqualify any member of any previous police force of any city from holding appointment under the Board of Police Commissioners, at their discretion, nor to disqualify any member of a police force appointed by such board from holding appointment under the mayor and council afterwards. And nothing in this act shall be construed to prevent the said State board from again appointing another Board of Police Commissioners for the same city, whenever they may deem it advisable or necessary for the better or more perfect government of such city, in which event and as often as such event may so occur, this act as to such city shall again be of full force and effect.

Sec. 12. This act shall take effect immediately upon its approval.

Sec. 13. Whenever the word "city is used in this act the same shall be construed to mean "city" or "town."

Sec. 14. All acts and parts of acts which are inconsistent with this act are hereby repealed.

For Sale by A. H. Foster & Co., Union, S. C; and J. H. Spears, Kelton, S. C.

THE CONDITION OF THE STATE.—The Charleston News and Courier publishes a general review of the industrial condition of the State. It has received replies from thirty-three of its correspondents, practically covering the entire State, and touching generally upon the condition of the farmers, merchants, manufacturers and working people, as compared with their condition in previous years; how the people generally have met their indebtedness of the closing year, and what credit they will be able to obtain in 1895: how the volume of trade at the stores has compared with former years, and what policy the farmers will adopt as to the cultivation of cotton and provision crops in the new year. The replies vary very much as to details, and the reports in several instances are evidently colored by the pessimistic or optimistic sentiments of the writers, but there is a general consensus of opinion that money is very scarce; that labor is cheap and plentiful, and that home raised hog and hominy are more abundant than in many years. Cotton mills, with very few exceptions, are reported as flourishing, having paid their annual dividens.

It is clear from this report that the acreage in cotton will be very much reduced; that provision crops will be planted extensively, and that there will be much less commercial fertilizers bought this year. Altogether the outlook is not as blue as some of the croakers would make it appear.

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