

to report the bill for passage, &c., and it is decided in the affirmative.

The committee thereupon rose, and the Speaker having taken the chair, Mr. Memminger, from the committee of the whole, reported that the committee had under consideration the Senate bill to fix the time for the meeting of the convention, and recommend its passage without amendment, and asked to be discharged from the consideration of all matters referred to it; which was concurred in.

The bill having received a second reading in the House, Mr. Harrington offered the following preamble as an amendment:

"Whereas the recent election of deputies to a Southern Congress has decided against the separate secession of South Carolina for the past aggressions; and whereas, in the opinion of this Legislature, the other Southern States have decided against co-operating with this State in the measure of secession as a remedy for existing grievances; and whereas the act of the last session of this Legislature, calling a Convention of the People, referred to it the question as to the mode and measure of resistance; and whereas this Legislature relies upon that body to adopt such measures of resistance, in conformity to the declared will of the people, as will preserve the honor and redeem the pledges of the State."

A motion was made to lay the preamble on the table, on which Mr. Owens demanded the yeas and nays; which being taken, resulted as follows: Yeas—91. Nays 21.

Mr. McGowan then offered an amendment that the Governor be authorized to receive resignations of the members who desired to resign, and to issue writs of election to fill the vacancies. This amendment was rejected—yeas 54, nays 59.

Mr. Nelson Michell offered an amendment to change the time of the meeting of the Convention from the fourth Monday in April to the fourth Monday in January. This was also rejected by a large majority. The question recurring on the passage of the bill, Mr. McCrady spoke very vehemently against the bill, and against the calling of the Convention. The yeas and nays were ordered, and the bill passed by the Senate, fixed the time of the meeting of the Convention on the fourth Monday in April, 1852, was ordered to be returned to the Senate.

December 8.

In the House sundry bills from the Senate were read a first time.

The Speaker announced the papers on his desk, among which was the bill calling the convention, which had been read a third time in the Senate. The question being shall this act be returned to the Senate, Mr. Philips moved that it be the special order for to-morrow at 12 o'clock. The motion was lost. The vote on the question being ordered to be taken by yeas and nays, resulted as follows:—

Yeas—66.—Nays—35.

Mr. Lessesne, from the committee on the judiciary, made a report from the minority of the committee in relation to changing the day of general elections in this State. The report is in favor of the change, so that the Sabbath be not desecrated by electioneering, &c.

Mr. B. F. Gray, from the committee on the lunatic asylum, reported in favor of an appropriation of \$10,000 for the purpose of extending the buildings of the institution. He also reported a bill for the purpose of authorizing the street on the east of the asylum to be enclosed.

Mr. Ashmore called for the special order for one o'clock, being the bill to recharter the Bank of the State. The House resolved itself into committee of the whole, Mr. Chesnut in the chair. Some desultory debate followed in the committee, when Mr. Huston renewed his motion that the committee rise, and report that it is expedient to discuss the recharter of the Bank of the State at this time, it having five years to run. The resolution was adopted and the committee rose.

A bill to punish persons placing obstructions on railroad tracks had a second reading and was ordered to the Senate, after being amended, so as to strike out the clause requiring railroad companies to fence their lines of railroads.

A bill to sell a tract of land—Rocky Mount Canal—to Danl. McCullough, was amended so as to offer the property at public auction.

Mr. Chesnut, Chairman of Committee of the Whole, reported on the bill to recharter the bank of the State, which report and the bill was ordered by a vote of yeas and nays to lay on the table.

A resolution was adopted that the House on to-morrow, and afterwards take a recess daily from 4 to 7 p.m.

The House adjourned.

DECEMBER 11.

In the House, sundry bills were read and reports of standing committees made.

A bill to provide by law for payment of post mortem examinations was read a second time and ordered to the Senate.

Mr. Memminger offered a resolution that a committee of five from the House be appointed to inquire into the expediency of erecting a new Chapel at the South Carolina College, or enlarging the old one, and that a message be sent to the Senate asking the appointment of a similar committee on the part of that body.

Mr. Lyles, from the committee appointed to examine the contingent account of the Government, made a report.

A bill to amend the charter of the King's Mountain Railroad Company was read a second time, and ordered to the Senate for concurrence.

A bill to renew the charters of the Commercial Bank of Columbia; the Planter's and Mechanics' Bank, and the Union Bank of Charleston, came up. Several amendments were offered. The bonus to be paid to the State was stricken out, and a tax of 25 cents on every \$100 substituted.

The chief and most important amendment was offered by Mr. W. R. Robertson, viz: an additional section to recharter the Bank of the State until 1870. The Speaker declared the amendment to be out of order unless received by the House. The House decided by a vote of 53 yeas to 50 nays to receive the amendment.

Mr. Hunt addressed the House at some length in support of the amendment.

Mr. Preston rose to ex-late the vote he would give on the amendment. He would

vote against it, because he thought it was premature. He was a friend to the bank, and believed that it was the best fiscal agent on this continent, and if the amendment were adopted, would vote for the bill so amended.

Mr. Phillips spoke against the amendment. He had heard that the Bank of the State was regarded as the State. He was told that it would be impudence for the directors to give notice for application for a recharter, yet the courts of the State had decided that it was a corporation. He asked, if the bank was so influential for good as represented, why fear that the people be arrayed against it?

Mr. J. Izard Middleton spoke at some length against the amendment. It was said that this bank would regulate the currency, but he said this great regulator had in circulation \$3,000,000, when it had only \$200,000 in specie in its vaults. He said that although this bank had the largest capital, it was the weakest bank in the State. It was well known, he said, and he stated it on the authority of the President of the institution, that had it not been for one of these very banks, now applying for a recharter, this great regulator would have had at one time to suspend specie payments.

He was further opposed to the bank because he believed it to be unconstitutional, that it was founded on bad policy, and not republican, because it made the government independent of the people, because it gave the government a friend independent of taxation.

Mr. Huston thought all the discussion was a waste of time, as he had no doubt all the members had made up their minds on the question. He, therefore, moved that the amendment be laid on the table. On which motion the yeas and nays were ordered, and resulted 54 yeas to 51 nays—so the motion was lost.

The question being then on the adoption of the amendment, the vote was taken by yeas and nays, and resulted as follows: Yeas 66.—Nays 57.

So the amendment was adopted.

Mr. Torre moved an amendment to strike out all after the enacting clause, and provide for the temporary recharter of all the banks now seeking recharter. At this point the House took a recess until 7 o'clock.

DECEMBER 13.

In the House yesterday, there was but little of importance done, save the regular progress of business.

Mr. Memminger, from the committee on ways and Means, made sundry reports, among which was one in relation to the Branch of the Bank of State at Camden. The committee recommended that the Senate resolution in reference to this matter be laid on the table, and reported a resolution requiring the President and Directors to close the bond debts over two years' standing.

Mr. Preston, from the Committee on Federal Relations, reported a bill to give the consent of the State to the purchase of the lot on Bull's Island, by the Federal Government, for the purpose of erecting a lighthouse.

A message from the Governor was read by the Executive Secretary, Col. Watts. The message was in relation to the report of the Board of Ordnance.

A motion to take up out of its regular order a bill to recharter the Bank of the State, was lost by a vote of 55 yeas and 61 nays.

A bill to amend the law in relation to slaves carrying arms, after being discussed for some time, was on motion of Mr. Harrington, laid on the table.

A bill to amend the law abolishing the rights of primogeniture, was discussed for some time, and an amendment offered by Mr. Owens, and advocated by him, to give the personal and one-third of the real estate of an intestate to his widow, was lost. The bill was passed.

The tax bill was on motion of Mr. Memminger, taken up and after the rejection of an amendment offered by Mr. Ayer, taxing money loaned out and bearing interest, had been discussed and rejected, the bill passed on its second reading. It is as follows:

A bill to raise supplies for the year commencing in October, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-one.

See 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, now met and sitting in General Assembly, and by the authority of the same, That a tax for the sums, and in the manner hereinafter mentioned, shall be raised and paid into the public Treasury of this State, for the use and service thereof, that is to say: Thirty-five cents ad valorem on every hundred dollars of the value of all the lands granted in this State, according to existing classification heretofore established; one half cent per acre on all lands lying within the Catawba Indian boundary, to be paid by each grantee or lessee of said Indian land, until otherwise directed by law; fifty-six cents per head on all slaves; two dollars on each free negro, mulatto, and mestizo, between the ages of fifteen and fifty years, except such as shall be clearly proved to the satisfaction of the collectors to be incapable, from mains or otherwise, of procuring a livelihood; twenty-five cents ad valorem on every hundred dollars of the value of all lots, lands and buildings, within any city, town, village or borough in this State. Sixty cents per hundred dollars on factorage employments, faculties and professions, (whether in the profession of the law, the profits to be derived from costs of suit, fees or other sources of professional income,) and on the amount of commissions received by vendue masters and commission merchants, (clergymen, schoolmasters, schoolmistresses and mechanics excepted.) Sixty cents upon every hundred dollars worth of goods, wares and merchandise, embracing all the articles of trade for sale, barter or exchange, (the products of this State, and the unmanufactured products of any of the United States or Territories, thereof excepted,) which any person shall use or employ as articles of trade, sale, barter or exchange, or have in his, her or their possession, on the first day of January in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-two, either on his, her or their capital, or borrowed capital, or on account of any person or persons, as agent, attorney, or consignee; 60 cents upon one hundred dollars worth of goods, wares and merchandise whatever, which any transient person, not resident in this State, shall sell or expose for sale, in any house, stall or public place. Ten dollars per day for representing public offices, and

reward, any play, comedy, tragedy, interlude or farce, or other employment of the stage, or any part therein, or for exhibiting wax-figures or other shows of any kind whatsoever, to be paid into the hands of the clerks of the courts respectively, who shall be bound to pay the same into the public treasury, except in cases where the same is now required by law to be paid to corporation or otherwise.

Sec. II. That all taxes levied on property, as prescribed in the first section of this act, shall be paid to the tax collectors for the district or parish in which said property is located.

Sec. III. The goods which shall be imported directly from Europe, in any vessel owned by citizens of South Carolina, shall be exempt from taxes in the hands of the original importers. And it shall be the duty of the tax collectors to require every importer, making a return of stock in trade, to produce the original invoice, whenever an exemption from taxation shall be claimed under this section.

Sec. IV. In making assessments for taxes, the value of taxable property, used in manufacturing within this State, the value of the machinery used therein, shall not be included, but only the value of the lots and buildings, as property merely.

Sec. V. That the tax collectors in the several districts and parishes in this State, in their returns hereafter to be made, and they are required and enjoined to state the precise amount of taxes collected by them, for the purpose of supporting the police of the said several districts and parishes aforesaid, stating the rate per centum on the amounts of the State tax collected for said district and parish police purposes.

The Appropriate Bill, reported by the Committee of Ways and Means, was also read a second time and ordered to the Senate.

After which the House took a recess until 7 o'clock.

We copy the following sketch of the debate on the Bank Bill from the State Rights Republican:

The House then resolved itself into Committee of the whole and took up special order of the day, the bill reported by the judiciary committee for the recharter of the bank of the State, Col. Chesnut in the chair.

Mr. Hunt spoke at considerable length in support of the bill. He said the banking system must be regarded as a whole; that in that system there must be a restraining power somewhere—a bank that should exert a wholesome check upon other institutions. Such was the bank of the state. It had now been in existence 40 years, and notwithstanding the assaults made upon it, it had come forth from the furnace, pure as well tried gold. Scrutiny had detected no fault in its management. Obligay had not taken away its character. There was not a single transaction of the bank that had not been done in good faith, and had not been marked by sound judgment. It was now, as it always had been, a sound bank, worthy of the entire confidence of the people. Mr. Hunt read statements from a printed document (we presume, the report of the president and Directors) entering minutely into the history of its operations. The bank, he said, had been a public blessing. It had helped the people to pay their taxes. It had reduced the amount of taxation. It had paid off four millions of the public debt. The State, once rich had engaged in schemes of internal improvement, utterly profitless thus far to the Treasury, which had greatly crippled the energies of the bank, and had been an incubus on her shoulders; but she had stood up with Herculean strength under her burthen, and had maintained her position without faltering. 1870, she would pay off all her debts, but she must be allowed till that time to pay them in. The public faith, the solemn pledges of the State required that she should have that much time to relieve herself of all her obligations to the foreign creditors of the State. At the end of that time, she would have between three and four millions of capital stock in her possession, which the State could appropriate to any purposes it might judge most beneficial. He only hoped when this fund was surrendered back to the State, it would not be squandered in wild and profitless speculations, however magnificent.

Mr. Huston said, the charter of the bank had still five years to run and he did not think it was worth while to renew its charter at this session of the Legislature. He moved therefore that the Committee do now rise and report against the passage of the bill, without sending it to the Senate. Mr. Huston said, he did not think it was worth while to renew its charter at this session of the Legislature. He moved therefore that the Committee do now rise and report against the passage of the bill, without sending it to the Senate.

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of a re-charter of the bank had been brought forward at this time. The President and Directors of the Bank of the State, were, in his opinion, a corporation, and must proceed like other corporations in their applications for a re-charter. They must give the usual notice of their intention. The proposition was premature. The House had certainly been taken by surprise.

Mr. Garlington regarded the matter of the bank as having been fairly put in issue at the last election. The State, in his opinion, was not bound to give the notice spoken of. He was opposed to the charter of banking institutions, and especially at this time, but would inform members, if the bank of the State were not to have fair play, he would vote against the re-charter of any and all banks.

Mr. Hammond said, this matter had been much discussed some years ago in the House. His opinion was that the people should uphold their own institutions. If it was not re-chartered, he would not support the charter of any other bank.

Mr. Ashmore said he had told the people of his district, that this question of re-charter of the bank of the State would not be mooted in the Legislature before 1854 or '5. If the measure were now forced upon the house, he must go for it.

Mr. Leitner was in favor of the bank of the State, but did not wish to see it re-chartered now. If its existence depended, however, on the present action of the Legislature, he should feel compelled to advocate it.

Mr. Sullivan said, the bank of the State was not a private corporation. Mr. Memminger insisted that it was. Col. Hunt said it was the people's bank, and that he should be ashamed of the President and Directors if they were to come here and apply for a re-charter. The State could take care of her own interests and did not require to give notice to any of its own intentions.

Mr. Dargan was in favor of the re-charter of the bank of the State, but not at the present session. He would not go for its re-charter at the present session, nor for the permanent charter of any bank, although he might vote for their temporary re-charter, if it were necessary. He was not of opinion that the legislature required notice of the intention of the Bank of the State to apply for an extension of its charter.

Mr. Preston said the subject before the House was one of very grave interest, and he hoped members would not be hurried into the debate before they were prepared for it. For his own part, he wished time to consider of it.

Mr. Ashmore moved that the Committee do now rise, report progress, and beg leave to sit again to-morrow, at 1 o'clock, which motion prevailed.

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