

Proceedings of the Legislature.

SENATE.

MONDAY, Dec. 10. The Senate met at 11 o'clock a. m., pursuant to adjournment.

A bill to authorize the erection of gates on all roads leading to the State Agricultural Society's grounds, reported by the Committee on Agriculture and Internal Improvements as a substitute for a bill to supercede land fences, by erecting gates, received the second reading, was agreed to, and was ordered to be sent to the House of Representatives.

A bill to authorize the arrest and imprisonment of defaulters in the performance of road duty, was on motion of Mr. Witherspoon, ordered to lie on the table.

The report of the Committee on Federal Relations on certain matters relating to the Massachusetts bill, reported by the Committee on Federal Relations, being before the Senate, Mr. Gist moved that the report do lie on the table, for the purpose of taking up resolutions, offered by the Senator from Union on the same subject, which was ordered to be decided by yeas and nays.

The resolution offered by the Senator from Union was then ordered for consideration, which is as follows:

Resolved, That His Excellency the Governor, in returning resolutions of the Legislature of Massachusetts, exercised a proper discretion, and that his course in relation thereto meets the unqualified approbation of the Legislature and people of the State.

Mr. Porter offered as a substitute the following:

Resolved, That the General Assembly sanction and applaud the action of His Excellency the Governor, in returning the resolutions of the Legislature of Massachusetts.

The resolution was agreed to as a substitute, and was ordered to be sent to the House of Representatives for concurrence.

A bill to amend an act, entitled "an act to incorporate the Elmwood Cemetery Company," received the second reading, was agreed to, and was ordered to be returned to the House of Representatives.

The report of the Committee on Claims of the House of Representatives on the account of W. W. Goodman, Jailor of Edgefield District, was concurred in, and the bill was returned to the House of Representatives.

At 15 minutes to 4 p. m., on motion of Mr. Carn, the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. The House met at 11 o'clock a. m., pursuant to adjournment.

The Senate sent to the House a bill to secure to married women a separate estate in property to which they may be entitled, as they become entitled afterwards; read the first time, and ordered for consideration to-morrow.

Mr. Boylston, from the Committee on the Judiciary, reported on a bill from the Senate to increase the penalty for setting fire to the woods; also upon bills sent from the Senate to vest the title of the State in certain escheated property in certain persons.

Mr. McGowan offered a resolution, recommending the Legislature to subscribe for five hundred copies of the Legislative Times, which will contain the full proceedings and debates of the present session, for distribution; ordered for consideration to-morrow.

Mr. Middleton offered a resolution sustaining the action of His Excellency the Governor, in regard to the Massachusetts resolutions, and tendering him the thanks of the House for so acting; ordered for consideration to-morrow.

Mr. Mitchell, from the Committee on the Judiciary, reported favorably on a bill to grant to all persons the qualifications of jurors; which were ordered for consideration to-morrow.

Mr. McGowan offered a resolution, recommending the Legislature to subscribe for five hundred copies of the Legislative Times, which will contain the full proceedings and debates of the present session, for distribution; ordered for consideration to-morrow.

Mr. Cunningham called for the Special Order, the bill to provide for the election of Electors for President and Vice-President of the United States.

Mr. Cunningham commenced by saying, that he had no objection of taking part in the discussion upon this bill, until after the debate had commenced, and that probably he would have not spoken at all, but from the fact that he had introduced a measure which constituted a part of the special order. It was a bill to alter and amend the 10th section of the 1st article of the Constitution, so as to convene the Legislature on or before the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November.

He said he had two objects in view, by the introduction of the bill; one was to extend the time of legislation, and allow the members to deliberate more fully upon all questions that were brought before them; another object was to cover the time now prescribed for holding the election of Electors, so that they would be held on a day which would be a day of rest, and would be a day of convenience to the people.

Mr. Cunningham said that the present system was a defective one, and presented several arguments to prove that it was defective. He said he was opposed to the district system, and he was glad to know that steps were about to be taken to abandon it. It was not States, rights, nor did it give any vote to the State Councils. That the Constitution of the United States did not contemplate that the election of Electors should be made by the people, but by the people by States. That the district system occasioned the present canvasses and conventions, increased corruption, and turned parties into political recklessness.

He said that the present state of things in South Carolina was such that they required to be spoken of in plain terms; that they were a stain upon the name of the people, and had no fine views, nor would we allow them to be entertained; that the present intelligence which represented the State in State and Federal Councils, was beneath the capacities of the people. He was opposed to the bill giving the election of Electors to the House of Representatives alone, for he considered it a death-blow to the people.

Mr. Cunningham defended at length the bill which he introduced.

Mr. Hammond said he did not intend to enter in a full discussion upon the bills now before the Committee; but as he had had the honor to introduce a bill to give the election of Governor and Lieutenant Governor to the people, and which was among the bills which composed the Special Order, he thought it necessary to express his views upon that bill.

He did not expect to get a two-thirds vote upon the bill, but he simply wanted the expression of the political sentiment of the House upon the question, whether the people are competent or not to decide upon the election of Governor and Lieutenant Governor.

He said that he was not competent, then they should select those who are. He had never heard the right of the people to vote for Governor denied, nor that they had not the honesty, patriotism and intelligence to make a proper choice.

It had been said that this was not a question of right, but one of expediency; but the question had never been fully discussed before the people, and that when it was discussed before them they would demand the change. He was one of those who believed that the people had intelligence and patriotism sufficient to enable them to elect a fit and proper man for Governor, and had as much talent as the Legislature, and that the property qualification entered into every election made by the Legislature; he did not believe the rich man could possess, or be entitled to, more exclusive rights than the poor man. He had seen said that the office of Governor was a sinecure; but he has the right to call out the militia of the State in case of invasion or to suppress insurrection, and it was nothing more than right that the people should know what sort of a commander they are to have. They do not know who or what kind of a man the Legislature is to elect Governor. The name of our

present Governor was not heard by the people a week before his election, and he doubted very much if every one in South Carolina now knew who was Governor. It was time that we should determine upon the policy of the State.

He had been told, also, that the more elections we have the more corruption there will be, but he was not sure that the Legislature was entirely free from corruption. He did not intimate that a candidate for Governor would condescend so low and degrade himself so much as to elect for the office, but if one would visit the public houses, when a Governor was to be elected, he would see that there was any quantity of champagne drank among certain parties. That if the doctrine that the fewer elections we have the less corruption among the masses, then who will represent the people. He submitted the bill to the good sense of the House.

Mr. Tobin next addressed the Committee at length in opposition to the bill.

House adjourned.

SENATE. TUESDAY, Dec. 11. In the Senate to-day, Mr. Allen reported the action of the Joint Committee to nominate the President and twelve Directors of the Bank of the State.

Mr. Johnson said, that as one of the Committees investigate the affairs of the Bank, he had claimed to participate in the election of the officers of the Bank; but as the claim had not been admitted, he moved that a message be sent to the House, asking leave to reconsider the report; which was agreed to.

The unfavorable report on the petition of the City Council of Charleston, in relation to the Senate resolution, to reconvene the report of the Joint Committee to nominate the President and Directors of the Bank of the State.

The Senate then adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. The House met at 11 o'clock a. m., pursuant to adjournment.

The bill to incorporate the State Agricultural Society, was read the first time.

The bill to allow the City Council of Charleston to close Little Contingent's Creek was read the first time.

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session of the Constitution of the State, with all the amendments thereto.

Resolved, That the member lately sitting as Senator from Edgefield be allowed his member's pay and mileage; which was agreed to.

The following message was received from the House of Representatives, and was ordered to lie on the table:

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. December 14, 1855. Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Senate. This House respectfully requests the Senate to concur with this House in rescinding the resolution to adjourn this General Assembly on Wednesday next. By order of the House. JAMES SIMONS, Speaker.

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9. Martin Lybrand, " " 7.

10. Wm. H. Dowdy, " " 8.

11. Dylon Lark, " " 9.

12. Appria Liny, " " 10.

13. Whitfield Morgan, " " 11.

14. J. D. Nicholson, " " 12.

15. Thomas W. Smith, " " 13.

16. Randall Marrel, " " 14.

17. W. J. Golding, " " 15.

18. J. H. G. " " 16.

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electing a Speaker is even greater than was anticipated. Wm. H. Dowdy, " " 8.

The last of these ballots, delivered on Tuesday the 11th instant, which Banks voted 107, Richardson 74, and Fuller 28, with an occasional variation of one vote for or against. The sound Democrats are standing firm as a rock, but seem to entertain the hope of carrying the Speaker-ship. A combination of the several elements of opposition is looked for as the probable result.

THE CINCINNATI CONVENTION. Our readers will find upon another page, the letter recently addressed by Col. Orr to a citizen of the State, upon the subject of sending delegates to the Cincinnati Convention. It is a very calm and impressive array of facts and arguments; and each man of us would do well to reflect upon them deliberately and judiciously.

There are many indications throughout the State of a feeling in favor of the Convention of June next. The idea seems to be, to send delegates from each District to Columbia some time in May to elect a State delegation to that body. That South Carolina will be represented at Cincinnati, in part at least, is thus becoming apparent. Would it not then be decidedly better for our people to attend to business in this meeting of the Democracy, in founded sectional considerations, yet we cannot fail to perceive and admit the force of Col. Orr's views as directed to the position and prospects of the sound National Democrats. We ask for his letter a careful examination.

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