firm was their knowledge of ility of the ballot box in is. The present system invites and opens wide the door to the n of every fraud. When the High county, whose powers are second se of the Chief Executive of the en convicted in the metropolis of a jury of his choice, in a forum m local prejudices and bias, it is the citizens to sound the alarm and the Legislative power for relief. nd, this committee recommend the this report to the Executive Comurther action; to confer with the and invite his co-operation in a the Legislature at its next regular such changes in the present nd especially in such parts thereof the custody of the ballot-boxes for of ten days after elections before declared.
nfield introduced the following

on, dated March 26th, 1869: e was appointed from the Senate of Representatives for the purpose ting irregularities in the election in Congressional District, and, where-lieved that a larger amount has been in the Treasury than has been propnted for, therefore, I, That the attention of the Execu tee be instructed to inquire into

with a view of determining what ald be taken in the matter, if any. vention then adjourned until 4 P. M.

## AFTERNOON SESSION.

mittee of Five, on postponement s announced by the chair, as folns, W. M. Shannon, M. L. Bon-

H. Giles, J. P. Richardson. ley, from the Executive Committee. egarding the mortgages on the Blue and and other companies to Henry , and the report and resolutions

entive Committee, to whom was resolution to require and report terms and for what consideration and execution of the Blue Ridge mpany and other companies, of a Henry Clews, Henry Gourdin and neron to secure the payment of s, was ratified and confirmed by e, and the said mortgage dea lien prior to that of the State on described in said mortgage, and e of the Blue Ridge Railroad, and properties of the several com-hich they or either of them may and also to report "what can be taken by this body to prerdination of the State's lien upon e other companies, to junior claim adividuals," beg leave to report. a careful examination of the ac ure, we can reach but one con-

hat for some reasons unknown to ttee, the Legislature has, without n, relinquished to private individ-e's lein upon the Blue Ridge Railhe entire properties of the other styled companies in the act), the and Columbia Railroad Company. igs by trustees with the property or eir cestui que trust can only be the and, are unauthorized by law and mittee need not dwell upon the

he State and her utter inability to ate individuals or corporations by ent gifts, or upon the fact that however generous they may be, are med to donate public funds to the efit of their friends or patrons. second branch of the resolution, ttee can suggest no better plan as a is embraced in the following reso-

That the Tax-payers' Convention the high legal attainments and patriotism of Messrs. Porter and nsellors at law, request them in the se whom they represent to give the s report their careful consideran their judgment it be practicable steps as are necessary to prevent

That copies of this report, and the lutions be officially communicated ter and Connor. spoke upon the subject matter.

mbled for the purpose of ferretd checking fraud, and sir, while een said of the sufferings of the unjust measures which have been one word, sir, has been uttered those who are the authors of in legislation. Had not Satan garden as a tempter, our parents we sinned. Were it not for the would have been no sin: were orruptors, there would now be no And, sir, we do not discharge our who sent us here, if we do not ese corruptors. Sir, the Legisla-Carolina, ignorant as it is, would en bribed without money. That have been furnished from some source, it is our duty to endeavor

d in this matter cry aloud and We should, if we would faithfully r duties, ferret out the guilty and ut. Then we will have commenc-tion in our government, and sir, it up, the day will come when we stand still," corruption has had its

uch fear that our suffering mother en the victim of strangers alone. I ear that it is not alone the sobagger who revels in the money ns. And, sir, for one, I am not sounce such characters because us. In doing it, I am not afraid, a son of South Carolina, I am ty which I owe to my poor ruined

ort we grapple not only with the we grapple with two strong and orporations, two incorporations n so much about the Legislature, mes and that of the Legislature to go together. They seem to long at the rich man's door tak-bs that fall from the rich man's t last like Lazarus, the dogs of the

we licked their sores. . I disclaim here any prejudice incorporation within the. limits of na. If I were to grapple with nts as these, I am encouraged with ge that I am advocating honesty, g fraud and theft.

wn, Mr. President, that, during of the last Legislature, there were roduced which, if they had been ugh, would have destroyed the Railroad Company, and it may be, ably is so, that to save its life, it ciate itself with that mass of cor-Greenville and Columbia Rail-

e measures were up. the officers epared to use every means to de-The President, as he has anng prepared to spend even a half pllars for this purpose; and more has boasted in our presence that nators to defeat these measures. as this company is concerned, I partake of the opprobrium of

If that company was prepared to use this money for such purposes, am I not right in saying we should inquire who the corruptors of the Legislature are?

What next? We find the Blue Ridge Railroad coalescing with the Greenville and Columbia Railroad Company-a road which at that time had a record that the very sulphurous stenches of hell itself could not render it more dark or disgusting.

The stock of the Greenville and Columbia

road is centered in the hands of a few men. We find the Blue Ridge road coalescing with this company, who were trying to destroy their own. We find them coalescing for what purpose? For the passage of an act of proposed consolidation. Read this act, and see what it proves. It first enables the Greenville and Columbia railroad, that delectable ring of high officials, to negotiate \$1,500,000 bonds, and enables the Blue Ridge Railroad Company to sell their stock for what it will bring. You will recollect when the bonds of the Blue Ridge Railroad could not be sold for less than What do they do? They go to work and concoct this extraordinary act, and, gentle-men, to some of you, who have been familiar for many years with legislation in South Carolina, in connection with those illustrious men, the Haynes, McDuffies and Calhoun, I say to you, read this act, and you will pronounce it the most surprising piece of legislation that ever came to your knowledge. The result will be, not good, but portentious with evil. What gentlemen of the Convention, what is to be the scheme by which the Legislature is to have a plausable excuse for the passage of this act, concocted by these two incorporations? Let us go before the Legislature, say they, and say that we want to consolidate our corporations and let us ask the Legislature to do something for this consolidated incorporation, that they could not do separately. The language of the act in that "air view" of these things, etc.
The proposed consolidation of the Blue Ridge and Greenville and Columbia Railroad Com panies enabled the former to sell their bonds for what they could get. Gentlemen, where is the wrong now? It is in the scheme whereby these men have combined their interests, look ing to the defrauding of the people of the

A law without a penalty amounts to nothing. and in this act there is no penalty. But, mark you; that whereas the gift, was in view of a consolidation, the penalty could not attach after the consolidation. It is an established fact, that this consolidation will never take place, and that that very company to-day is preparing to sell itself to the South Carolina

I do think, that just here, before I close, it would be well to consider if these incorporations, either of them, continue to this time to manipulate the funds of the State of South Carolina. I do know that the bonds of South Carolina were hypothecated to enable these parties to meet their payments on the stock of the Greenville road. Our bonds have been hypothecated to meet the liabilities of these persons who have purchased these bonds, and to place them in the high position of its stockholders. Was there no one in the Blue Ridge railroad that knew anything of their trans-actions? Why, sir, the history is too well known to prove that those high in office were bound up in it, and peculiarly interested in it, and are to-day. They knew of these facts. I don't care anything about your modes of financiering. He who spends the money of another without another's permission, is a thief. By the passage of this act, by which they secured much, the Greenville and Columbia Railroad secured more. I am told that I ought not to talk so much about this, as there are only fifty-six miles of the Blue Ridge Railroad in the State; but, sir, he who will steal a pin, will steal a fund. Fraud does not consist in the amount which is stolen, it consist in the principle violated. Why was it said that the lien of the State was above any other lien, if it was not to mislead the public?

If I have spoken earnestly in regard to this matter, I have so spoken because of my feelings. If I have used language which sounds harsh, it is because I would endeavor, in some shape, to express the utter abhorrence and contempt I feel for the acts which are committed to stave off some anticipated danger. I cannot think that anything justifies doing wrong that right may come. I cannot bide that the rich man in his glory, the mighty man in his the property holders of the bower, should be passed by with a smile, while his tool is made to go to prison and to associate with felons, And if, sir, I have seemed to exhibit zeal, it is because I would save the State, not from the hands of those who having a few dollars get more, but from those who having money spend it to get it back increased by the earnings of the laborer—men who think they ought to escape condemnation because they are growing rich. I claim no exemption

from personal responsibility.

Messrs. John L. Manning, W. L. Bonham and A. Burt were added to the Executive Committee. Mr. James A. Hoyt, introduced the follow-

Resolved, That the report of the Committee on Election and Suffrage laws adopted by the Convention, be placed in the hands of a special committee of seven members of this Convention, whose duty it shall be to transmit the report as a memorial to the Legislature on the subject of proportional representation accom-panied by such suggestions as they may deem advisable in order to secure the passage of a law at the earliest practicable moment after the Legislature is convened, that the system of cumulative voting may be made applicable to the next general election, and that the principle may be engrafted in general upon our system of suffrage; and further, that this special committee be instructed to use their best exertions in favor of the passage of thus just, wholesome and equitable provision, so as to bring about a full and complete representation of all the people, and the protection of their rights and interests of persons and property in

every respect.

The Convention then adjourned till 10 A. M. Friday, May 12.

## FOURTH DAY.

The Convention was called to order by Hon. W. D. Porter, President. The minutes of yesterday were read and

The chair announced the following committee under the resolution of J. A. Hoyt, on cumulative voting: James A. Hoyt, D. H. Chamberlain, M. W.

Gary, E. J. Scott, W. H. Wallace, B. H. Wilson, H. Gourdin.

Mr. Chesnut from the Executive Committee reported on the resolution regarding the Sterling Loan as follows:

The Executive Committee to whom was re ferred certain resolutions in reference to the Sterling Loan, and obligations which may here after be created, beg leave to report that they have considered the same, and recommend their adoption in the following form:

Resolved, That this Convention, representing the property holders and tax-payers of the State of South Carolina, do hereby deem it our ny, the instigator and mover of res. Am I to be told that, to of the Blue Ridge Railroad, its tuted, will not be held binding on us; and that of the Buse Rairoad. Its
document of the course they have? That
the course they have? That
sh a reason why the Blue Ridge
mpany should be a party to such
it furnishes no excuse.

The Buse Rairoad, its
tuted, will not be held binding on us; and that
we recommend to the people of the State, in
every manner and at all times, to resist the
payment thereof, or the enforcement of any
tax to pay the same, by all legitimate means within their power.

Resolved, That we deem it our duty to warn all persons not to receive by way of purchase, loan, or otherwise, any bond or obligation hereafter issued by the present State government, or by any subsequent government, in which the property-holders of the State are not represented, purporting to bind the property or pledge the credit of the State; and that all such bonds or obligations will be held to be

and in derogation of the rights of that portion of the people of this State, upon whom the public burdens are made to rest.

Resolved, That a Committee of Five be apinvestigate and report a plan to restore the credit of the State, and to confer with the representatives of the "Fire Loan Securities" of the State, which have been practically repudiated by the State authorities, with a view to repair the damage to the good faith and honor of the Commonwealth, by influencing an early liquidation of these obligations.

Adopted. Also, reported on resolution of Mr. Adams,

of Richland, in reference to taxation : The Executive Committee, to whom was referred the resolution of Mr. Adams, of Richland, in reference to the collection of taxes for the year 1871, beg leave respectfully to report that having already considered and reported upon the subject matters therein embraced, they ask leave to be discharged from their further consideration.

Also, reported on resolution to appoint a committee of five to prepare a truthful statement of the condition of the State now, and since the war:

The Executive Committee, to whom was referred a resolution to appoint a committee of five to prepare a report of the condition of the State now and since the war. beg leave to report, that they have considered the same, and recommend that the committee be raised for that purpose, and that the following gentlemen compose the same: viz. Messrs. A. P. Aldrich, Armistead Burt, J. L. Manning, A. P. Aldrich, Armistead Burt M. C. Butler, W. D. Porter.

Mr. Aldrich, from the same committee, uitroduced a resolution, that the name of James Chesnut be added to the names of Messrs. Porter and Connor, in the Blue Ridge railroad and Greenville and Columbia railroad bond

Mr. Trescott moved an amendment, that the committee be instructed to report at once. The amendment was laid on the table, and the resolution adopted.

Mr. Trescott and Mr. Warley spoke upon the amendment. Mr. Trenholm from the Committee of Eleven

submitted the following report on finances of the State, and which was with the resolutions

The Committee of Eleven to whom was re ferred the resolutions regarding the finances of the State, report as follows: This resolution having been published in the newspapers be-fore the assembling of the Convention, your committee were promptly apprised by his Ex-cellency the Governor, and by the other State functionaries referred to, of their readiness to furnish the required information. The Comp-troller General furnished to the Convention themselves a printed "statement of the funded debt of the State of South Carolina and information relative thereto." In this "statement, the total funded debt of the State," is set down as the sum of \$7,665,908.98. sum of the funded debt, viz.: \$7,665,908.98, must be added in order to exhibit the sum total of the debt of the State, the cash advanced to the Treasury by the Financial Agent. This is set down by Mr. Kimpton at the round sum of \$800,000, and also the further sum of \$400, 000, for bonds sold by Mr. Kimpton since the

date of the Comptroller's report, viz.: making a grand total of debt of \$8,865,908.89.

The sum total of bonds remaining unsold in the hands of the agent, as already shown by the Comptroller's statement, was \$2,200,000. From this amount, must be now deducted the amount sold as above stated, \$400,000, leaving \$1,800, 000. This amount of bonds, namely \$1,800, 000 is pledged for the security of the \$800,000

of cash advanced by the agent.

In view of this condition of the finances of the State, your committee would respectfully make the following recommendation, viz. 1. That his Excellency the Governor be respect fully requested to confer with the financial agent (who is now in Columbia, and to telegraph to New York not to sell any more bonds of the State at less than 80 per cent.

2. That his Excellency be respectfully re- July 1st, 1870 .. quested to proceed to New York, and to make the most economical arrangement possible for holding this \$1,800,000 of bonds, until the above limit of 80 per cent. becomes attainable.

3. At 80 per cent. \$1,000,000 of bonds will discharge the debt of \$800,000 due to the finan-

cial agent, and release \$800,000 of the hypothe cated bonds. This sum of bonds your committee recommend, that it may be respectfully suggested to the Governor to use in the follow

The amount of funded debt now payable, and that approching maturity combined is as follows: Fire loan bonds, Baring loan ...... \$440,000

Fire loan stock..... Amount over due..... State House bonds to mature on the 18th of July, 1871...... \$250,000

\$994,000 You committee recommend that the \$1.800,-000 of surplus bonds above referred to, as soon as they may be relieved from hypothecation, be applied to the satisfaction in part of the above debt of \$994.000. The \$744,000 of over due bonds constitute so much of the fire loan debt for which the capital of the Bank of the State is pledged, and your committee indulge in the hope that it may be discharged from that

If the arrangements suggested by the committee can be carried into effect, the result will be as follows:

Sum total of debt already stated, \$8,865,908 98 Add the bonds now in the hands of the Agent, and proposed to

\$10,665,908 98

Deduct the advances made by the Agent and proposed to be 800,000 00

Deduct the amount of funded debt proposed to be paid by \$800,000 of surplus bonds on

the bonds, viz...

the basis of 80 per cent. for 640,000 00 \$9,225,908 98

Should the remainder of the \$994,000 of funded debt, now pressing for payment, be dis-charged out of the assets of the Bank of the State, viz.....

The final sum of the funded debt

It may be reasonably objected to these sug gestions, that the present market price of the bonds is only 65 per cent., while the calculations made proceed on the basis of 80 per cent. for the bonds. But it is quite reasonable to expect that upon this exhibition of the exact condition of the debt of the State, and upon the concurrence of his Excellency the Governor. in the general course of arrangement herein recommended, there will be an immediate and considerable advance in the market value of the bonds, and greatly increased facilities for holding them off the market.

Referring now once more to the sum of the funded debt, the committee deem it proper to state that they had expected to verify the account by the evidences in the Comptroller's office, but they were disappointed.

The act of August 26, 1868, authorizing an

ately abated. issue of bonds for the payment of the bills receivable of the State, provided that the bonds in detail was found impossible as his books of

rer. Subsequent acts followed the same course. In consequence, there is no record kept in the recognized in the interest of the State, and for Comptroller's office. The preceding statement, under the authority of this officer, is derived pointed by the President of the Convention, to from the Treasurer. It is confirmed by the Governor, who united with the Treasurer, Mr. Parker, in giving to the committee every assurance of its correctness. And it appears to your committee that the several issues and sums of bonds described are of unquestionable legality and force as obligations of the State. It seems and critically examined. proper further to explain that the bonds under act of August 26, 1868, "for the payment of the interest on the public debt," were at first issued with the above words embodied in the form of the bonds. That these words being deemed objectionable, another set of bonds fo a like amount (\$1,000,000) was prepared and executed, and were sent to the financial agent to supply the place of the objectionable issue. Of this objectionable issue of bonds, \$500,000 were long since returned and cancelled, as appears by the assurances given to your committee by the Comptroller and Treasurer. the authority of Mr. Kimpton, Agent, and Mr. Parker, Treasurer, it appears also that a fur-ther sum of \$400,000 has been returned within a few days. These have not yet been cancelled. Mr. Kimpton also assured the committee that the remaining \$100,000 would soon be returned; that there was not any longer delay in effecting the exchange than arose from the necessity of waiting until the several loans matured for

which the first bonds had been pledged. The arrangement of having a financial agent in New York, does not make a favorable impression upon the committee. Copies of the accounts rendered by him for the fiscal years of 1869 and 1870 are annexed to this report for reference, marked respectively B. and C The large sum in money or bonds always in the hands of the agent is attended with unusual risk in the management of the finances of a State; and the difficulty of keeping the accounts of the agency and of the treasury in constant and regular accord is great. It will be seen for example, by account "B" that at the end of the year, the total of the sums charged to the Treasurer by Mr. Kimpton, was \$1,007,924.54, while the sums credited to Mr. Kimpton by the Treasurer, amounted to only \$623,000; exhibiting a discrepancy of \$384, 924.54, or disagreeament of \$384,924.54. In like manner, account "C" exhibits a disagreement of \$294,726,92.

It is true these accounts were recently brought into reconcilement, or rather into conformity with the accounts of the agency. There is added to both an account of the su sequent interest by which this was effected. Nothing appears in these accounts to impeach their correctness, but it will be seen how wide open is the door for errors and disputes, if for no graver misfortunes. It will be seen that among the items brought to the credit of the account by the subsequent entries, are these,

Account (B) fiscal year, 1869, for expenses, including interest as explained to the commit ...\$64,996 71 Account (C) fiscal year, 1870, for expenses. including interest.....

These appear to have been passed to the credit of the agency without being audited. The committee understood Mr. Parker, the Treasurer, to say that he had not received an account of the several items of expense that go to make up the two sums of \$64,996.71, and of \$94,977.42. These charges, as will hereafter be shown, add enormously to the interest of the public debt, nor is this the end. The committee learned from Mr. Kimpton that his own proper commission as agent was not included in the above sums, and that the rate of compensation is not even determined or agreed upon.

Your committee would have preferred to show with precision what rate of interest results from the addition of these charges, but it is seen that the full sum of the expenses is not yet known, neither do the accounts show the exact average sum of the cash advances made to the Treasury. Some approximation to the truth, may, however, be made in this way. By the report of the Comptroller General for 1870, words "For interest" engraved thereon, and pp. 101 to 104, the following appear to have the other without those words: and whereas, peen the quarterly balances due to Mr. Kimp-

October 1st, 1869..... ..\$515,424 54 therefore, January 1st, 1870...... 180,009 54

\$2,697,943 08 This sum, divided by the five periods, gives in average of \$539,588.61, as the sum of idvances, and seven and a half months as the period of time for which they were made. The nterest and other charges, as shown in another part of this report was for twelve months \$94,777.42 or \$7,914.78 per month. For seven and a half months it is \$59,360.85, or at the rate of 17 per cent. per annum. And to this is ret to be added the agent's commissions. Mr. timpton is under the impression that his average advance was greater than the sum stated by your committee. But even if it was \$700,000, instead of \$539,588 61, the interest without his commission) would amount still o the high rate of 131 per cent. per annum. The loss sustained by the State in this mode of dealing is obvious, and it is augmented apparently by the fact that all this risk, exbense and trouble, resulted in the sale of only \$1,000,000 of bonds, and these at the moderate ate of 70 per centum. The act providing for the payment of the interest on the public debt in gold had been passed, and had added very argely to the annual charge.

The interest paid by the Comptroller according to the report of ..... \$190,879 44 1870, is..... The coupons paid by Mr. Kimpton,

The premium on gold paid by Mr. Kimpton and charged in the same account (C) is..... 84,362 00 \$484,255 99

Thus raising the interest on the funded debt that year to about 71 per cent., instead of 6 per cent., and adding \$84,362 to the expenses of the State. The face of the bonds, it rose to 80 per cent. and upwards; but the State derived no benefit from the expense she had incurred to produce the advance. Only one million was sold, and those at 70 per cent. In reviewing the financial condition of the State, it was impossible to fail of being gravely impressed by the enormous expense of the present day as compared with the past. Your committee earnestly appealed to his Excellency Governor Scott to use all his power to enforce retrenchment in every department. It was impossible for your committee, in the short time allotted to their arduous task, to examine into the various accounts that exhibit these expenditures, and to suggest in what particulars they

may be curtailed. They procured from the Treasurer, in a com pendium form and attach to this report, accounts D and E, showing the receipts and disbursements of the Treasury for the years 1869 and 1870. They commend these interesting docu-ments to the careful examination and earnest consideration of the tax-payers and of the Legislature. They believe that all necessary retrenchment of expenses may be effected, and that it is the shortest and best avenue to escape from the financial difficulties we suffer, and the surest means of restoring quiet and confidence among the people of the State. Less than \$660,000 will pay the interest in gold on the funded debt, and \$1,200,000 of revenue should abundantly suffice to defray the interest and all

The committee believe that by a vigorous and persistent economy our expenses may be reduced to this sum, and the taxes proportion-

null and void, as having been issued in fraud | should be signed by the Governor and Treasu- | account are necessarily in New York. The the satisfaction of the Financial Agent, whom it is courteously and cordially invited. The same may be said of the several officers of the State to whom application for information

was made by your committee.

Mr. Neagle, the Comptroller General, was particularly pressing in his solicitations that all his books and accounts might be thoroughly

As the result of the deliberations of the committee on the matters referred and now reported on, they would respectfully recommend to the Convention the adoption of the following:

Resolved, as the sense of this Convention That the funded debt of the State as described in the report of the Committee of Eleven of this body is a valid debt, and that the honor and funds of the State are lawfully pledged for

the redemption thereof. Resolved, That the general plan for the arrangement of the funded debt, suggested by the committee, be recommended to the favorable consideration of his Excellency the Governor. Resolved, That to complete the examination of the accounts of the Financial Agent in New York, the Committee of Eleven be authorized to sit during the recess of the Convention, and to send a sub-committee to New York for the purposes indicated, and that the said committee and sub-committee be further authorized, if required by Governor Scott, to assist by their counsels at home or in New York in the proposed negotiations for the final adjustment of

the funded debt. Resolved, That his Excellency Governor Scott be, and he is hereby, earnestly solicited to make a systematic review of the various classes of expenditures for the public services and to use his authority and influence in arresting the present extrava-gant expenditures and in substituting a system of rigid economy and accountability in every department of the public service. That to this end his Excellency be earnestly and respectfully urged to adopt the sum of \$1,200,-000 as the utmost limit of expenditure, and exert all his power and influence to reduce the expenses, including the interest on the funded debt to this sum, and to diminish the taxes in

the same extent. Resolved, That the Comptroller and the Treasurer be required by his Excellency the Governor, not to destroy the \$400,000 of objectionable bonds referred to in the report, but to cancel and file them so that the fact of the cancellation thereof may at any time be demonstrated, and that the same course be pursued in reference to all redeemed obligations of the State, of any character whatso-

Mr. E. J. Scott offered the following resolution, which was adopted.

Whereas, it is customary and proper that persons entrusted with large amounts of the public funds should guarantee the safe keeping and faithful disbursement of the same, and whereas H H Kimpton Esq., the State Finan-cial Agent in New York, who holds about two millions of State bonds, has given nothing but his own personal obligation for the discharge

Resolved, That the attention of the Governor and the Attorney General be specially directed to the risk of loss by the death or default of said agent, and that they be requested to require of him a bond with such good and sufficient security as will protect the interests of the State committed to his hands.

Mr. Jones offered the following resolution, which was referred to the Committee of

Eleven. Whereas, By the act of the 26th of August, entitled an Act to authorize a State Loan, to pay interest on the public debt, the Governor was authorized to borrow on the credit of the State on coupon bonds, a sum not exceeding one million of dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary to pay the interest on the public debt. And whereas, it appears that instead of one million, two million of dollars of coupon bonds were created, the one with the words "For interest" engraved thereon, and although it is now stated that \$900,000 of the two millions thus issued has been recalled;

Resolved, That this Convention cannot but April 1st, 1870...... 548,347 84 deem this transaction as uncalled for, and 573,317 21 | without legal authority, and as exhibiti October 1st, 1870 ...... 880,843 95 irregularity and capacity for fraud which merits its stern condemnation.

Mr. Chesnut, from the Executive Committee,

reported as follows: The Executive Committee, to whom was referred a preamble and resolutions in regard to a larger amount having been drawn from the Treasury, by the committee of the Senate and House of Representatives, for the purpose of investigating irregularities in the Third Congressional District, than has been properly accounted for, ask leave to report that they considered the same, and recommend that the same be referred to the Attorney General, with the recommendation that the subject is well worthy of judicial examination, and, in the opinion of the committee, is entitled to the

attention of the prosecuting officer of the Mr. Simons, from the Special Tax Commit-

tee, reported as follows: The Special Committee directed by the Convention to confer with the Governor of the State, in relation to the postponement of the collection of the taxes in November ensuing, beg leave to report that impressed with the conviction under the peculiar circumstances of the case, and in view of the fact that the people of the State are thus called upon to the taxes for two separate years in one, of the justice of the measure of relief proposed they have had an interview with the Governor, who has authorized them to state to the Convention, that while the various offices will be open in November for the reception of the taxes at that time, from such of the citizens as may be then prepared to pay them, yet that the period for their payment will be extended to the first of March A. D., 1872, within which time if

payment is made no penalty will attach. Mr. Butler, stated that his committee, excepting one branch, was ready to report. The Convention then took a recess of a half

Upon re-assembling, Mr. Butler, from the committee of eleven, to confer with the Governor, reported as follows. The report being

The committee to whom was referred the resolution of the Convention, "That a committee of eleven be appointed by the chair to confer with his Excellency Governor Scott, in pursuance of the fourth resolution of the Cham-ber of Commerce and Board of Trade of the

tion in writing or otherwise," beg leave to re-That they have had an extended conference with the Governor pursuant to the resolu-tion of instruction; eliciting the following re-

city of Charleston, and report to this Conven-

sults. It was stated to the Executive by your committee, that they visited him, not as partisans of any political party, but simply as representa tives of the Tax-payers of the State, to ascertain in what manner they could co-operate with him in correcting many of the prevailing evils now causing popular discontent, and to obtain from him an official statement of such facts and suggestions, as would promote confidence and secure retrenchment and economy in the administration of the State Government The Governor, in reply, expressed his grati-fication that he was afforded an opportunity to

lay before the representatives of the tax-payers of the State, the facts in his possession and such information as would meet the views of the committee.

was the fact, that nothing had been done involving the credit of the State which was not strictly authorized by law. And to satisfy the committee they were invited by the Treasurer, Comptroller General and State Agent, to make a thorough examination of their respective official accounts. It is very gratifying to your committee to state that these officials were present at the interview, and have given free access to their offices and books, upon which a special report will be made by a subcommittee of this Convention.

The Governor produced the printed state-ment of the funded debt of South Carolina, which has been furnished to the members of the Convention by the Comptroller General, and remarked that he believed it to be substantially true, and that he had not signed any other bonds than those set forth in said statement, and that none had been issued except by authority of law.

2. With reference to the unnecessary multiplication and increase of State and county offices, he remarked that he was satisfied a large number of officials could be profitably dispensed with, and that if the Convention would take positive action upon the subject, it would probably have weight with the Legislature, and induce economical restrictions, and expressed the determination to exert his influence with the General Assembly to effect that object; all of which is more specifically set forth in the report of a sub-committee especially charged with this branch of their instruc-

3. Upon the suggestion of your committee, that one of the principal causes of popular complaint and dissatisfaction, consisted in the fact that many of the Trial Justices and other officers and agencies of the law were incompetent, and so unequally distributed as to prevent convenient and ready access, his Excellency replied that he fully appreciated the force of ne remark, and knew that this was one of the most fruitful causes of the difficulties which have existed during the last six or eight months-that, until recently, he had had trouofficers, and that he was satisfied that much of the personal violence and indifference to law was due to the fact that the people have not the means of enforcing the law within their reach.

4. In reply to an enquiry from your commitee as to his opinion of minority representation, the Governor was clear and explicit in account. his endorsement of the plan, believing as he said, that it would do more to destroy prejudice, prevent ill-feeling and educate the majority, than any event which could occur-that they would be the gainers should the Legislature at its next session pass an act providing for minority representation.

5. In regard to the election laws, the Governor was very decided in the opinion that they should be amended, alleging as the reason that as they now stand, distrust was created in the minds of the people, and temptation offered for the commission of fraud. He added that at the next session of the Legislature he would urge a change so that the ballots could be counted in public as soon as the polls were

6. Your committee urged the inability of the people, after paying the taxes now being colrepresented to him by well informed citizens in several parts of the State, that for a large class of citizens, whose taxes were small in the state of citizens. he month of November was a more convenient time of payment than any other; and he boped that to this class of our citizens the collection of the tax at that time would not prove oppressive. But yielding to the representation of your committee, he requested them to report o the Convention, that he would authorize the Comptroller to suspend the collection of the taxes in all cases where the payment thereof was inconvenient to the tax-payers. That this postponement shall extend to the first of March, 1872, and that the penalty for non-payment should not be enforced in the meantime.

stand his Excellency as having committed himself to the following propositions: 1. That he has signed no other bonds than those set forth in the debt statement made by the Comptroller General, and that there have tender of free passage of the delegates to their

In brief, to recapitulate, your committee un-

peen no fraudulent or illegal issues. 2. That the State and county offices, both W. D. Porter, for the able manner in which he lective and appointed, are unnecessarily multiplied, and should be reduced in number, and had conducted the proceedings. many of them in pay.

the administration of justice have been incompetent and inaccessible to the people, and that nany of the disorders complained of in the State have been created by this cause, and that he will replace them with competent persons whenever he can do so.

4. That he is in favor of the cumulative sys tem of voting and minority representation law of this State.

6. That he would have the collection of the taxes of next November postponed until the 1st of March, 1872, and not enforce the pen-

alty for non-payment until that time. Your committee are aware of the widespread feeling of distrust of the present administration, and whilst they share to a great extent this common feeling, they think it would be wise and proper that a cheerful response be made to this effort of his Excellency to secure retrenchment and reform in the administration of public affairs.

There has been nothing in the different inter views between your committee and the Governor which leads them to believe that he dean earnest desire to correct many of the evils and grievances of which we complain. That frauds the most flagrant, and corrup-

tion the most dangerous and demoralizing have been perpetrated by many of the State officials, your committee have no doubt; but an investiration has scarcely been embraced within the scope of their instructions, even if they had had the power under the sanction of law and the time to have done so. In this connection, however, your committee

recommend the adoption of the following reso-

Resolved, That his Excellency the Governor be requested to direct the Attorney General to enquire into all cases of alleged frauds upon the Treasury, that may be brought to his notice; and to make suitable provision for the remuneration of informers, and to the compensation of additional counsel, which may be necessary. That the Attorney General be in-structed, if found necessary or expedient, to attach the property of persons ascertained to be in default to the Treasury, or in any other way to be unlawfully in possession of moneys

A committee on the part of the Legislature is now in session in this city charged with the investigation of the transactions of some of the State officials. Your committee recommend the appointment of a committee of three by the President of this Convention, whose duty it shall be as representatives of a large body of the tax-payers of the State, to tender their services and co-operation to the Legislative committee, in aid of the investigation now going on.

Your committee not having the authority of law to press their enquiry into to the numerous alleged frauds and corruptions, to a satisfactory conclusion, and recognizing the occasion as one of too much gravity to be hastily and inadvisedly passed upon, have declined to be influenced in this regard by the unsworn statements of individuals. The foregoing recommendations, however, if carried out, will test active in arresting the law-breakers. the sincerity of those who have the authority for investigation, and lead to a purification of the body politic.

The adoption of the following suggestions is respectfully recommended for the considera- damaged.

rumors that an illegal and irregular manipution of the Legislature at its next session, with lation of the public funds had taken place, it a view to the enactment and modification of certain laws.

1. Increase the revenues of the State by additional legislation insuring the full and faithful payment of the royalty on phosphatic deposits dug and mined, pursuant to the terms of the charters of the respective companies. This may be effected by the appointment of reliable bonded inspectors or weighers, who should be required to determine by weight or measure-ment the number of tons mined before sale or shipment, and who shall receive for compensation, a reasonable commission on amounts secured to the State through his office.

Your committee are advised that a large proportion of the public expenses might be met from this source, if properly collected, whereas, but —— thousand dollars have so far been paid into the State Treasury.

Repeal or prevent in future acts vesting valuable franchises, the right to dig and mine phosphates, etc., etc., in companies, all or a great part of whose corporators are members of the Legislature at the time of the grant.
3. Stop the drawing of money from the Treasury for alleged current legislative ex-

penses on the order of the Speaker of the House or President of the Senate, in advance of any appropriation, which practice is in direct violation of Section 22, Article 2 of the Constitution, which provides: That "no money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in pursuance of an appropriation made by law. 4. All appropriation bills should specify items under each general head. For instance, he practice is to cover, under head of "Legis

lative Expenses," the payments to alleged employees, clerks, messengers, etc., of the General Assembly, who, as your committee are informed, outnumber the members thereof. 5. Reduce the n .mber of State and county officers, by blending the duties of two or more

offices in one, and reduce the fees of Coroners, which are excessive.

6. Enact a law limiting each session of the

Legislature to thirty days. 7. A law should be enacted, or the present law modified, prohibiting County Commissionble in finding a proper class of men for Trial ers from issuing any check until the account upon which it is alleged to be based, is first audited and approved by the County Treasurer or some other independent officer, and requiring the Commissioners to publish quarterly a statement in the nearest newspaper, of all amounts collected and paid by whom collected, to whom paid, and on what

> 8. Let the old law regulating the fees of solicitors be substituted for the present. 9. Repeal the act granting a salary of \$2.500 per annum to the Adjutant General. The office is a mere sinecure. Its practical duties

> can be performed by a clerk, to be appointed

by the Governor, acting as Assistant Adjutant General. 10. Limit each public officer to one salar or compensation, for the same service. (Vide Lieutenant Governor's pay.)
11. Abolish Commission to codify the laws.

It costs the State \$15,000 and does no duty which cannot be discharged by a clerk. The duties of your committee, Mr. President have been delicate and ardnous, and the time within which they were expected to discharge them, too limited to permit such a matters comthorough investigation of the such information as they have been able to procure, may lead to other and further investiration by the committee above recommended

and that the suggestions and remedies which

they have had the honor to make, may result

in good to the whole people of the State. All of which is respectfully submitted, M. C. BUTLER, Chairman of the Committee.

After the several committees had rendered their reports, resolutions of thanks were adopted, expressive of gratification of the manner in which the Governor and other State officers had conducted themselves, to facilitate the various examinations and proceedings, also thanking the several railroad companies for the homes. Also, to the presiding officer, Hon.

Mr. Porter responded in a speech expressive 3. That many of the officials charged with of his appreciation of the honor, and of feelings on the occasion.

SPEECH OF MR. PORTER.

If I felt any gratification at the honor conferred in the opening, I must feel still greater gratification at the satisfaction in the manner in which the duties of the chair have been dis-charged. It has been altogether to me a duty and would be glad to see it made a part of the of pleasure. It has been my fortune to preside over one branch of the General Assembly 5. That the election laws are defective, lead of the State of South Carolina. I would pay to fraud, and should be materially amended, and that he will exert his influence to that end.

to that body the tribute of saying that during the whole period during which I discharged those duties, I can call to my mind no act of any member towards the Chair, or towards a fellow member that would bring to me a feeling of regret. So much kindness was always exhibited in that body that it is a memory of an honor that will remain with me to the last day of my life. And now, gentlemen, one of the greatest pleasures is what seems to me a re-union of the same kind. I see so many of my old associates. I receive from so many congratulations, and experience so many recollec-tions of the relations, that I feel as if it were a meeting of old friends after some shipwreck, or after some long period of tribulation. It is really a pleasure to look again in your faces, to see the sparkling of your eyes, and to feel sires or intends to repudiate his assurances of the throbbing of your hearts—hearts that are now, as they ever have been, true to the best interests of the commonwealth. As for this Convention, I will not speak in praise of it; we need not be ashamed of it. Let its results speak in behalf and appeal for it to the country

for its sympathy.

I think it good that this voluntary body has determined to continue its sessions. If it act as an undignified and unharmonious body, it will accomplish nothing; but, if it act on the same spirit that it has, if it avoid Federal and State politics: if it wager no war against the State or the United States Governments, but simply, if it welcome to its ranks, as we have done, gentlemen who propose to be good, who are for wholesome laws, good magistrates, and a just administration of the public funds; if it do that it will have accomplished a great good. I think we have done much to remove misunderstanding, and inaugurate a period of better feeling, and better conduction of our public affairs. Thanking you again for the honor you have conferred and wishing you a safe return to your homes. I bid you farewell.

The Convention then adjourned sine die.

Marion complains of high rents. Rust has appeared on the wheat in Oconee

Charleston has an organization known as the Mr. E. C. McClure is about to resume the publication of the Chester Reporter.

The Washington Light Infantry, of Charleson, are organizing themselves into a Rifle

A new paper, the Darlington Index, is to be

published in Darlington, commencing on the

11th instant. Union is troubled by the discharge of fire arms and pistols after dark. The officers are

A severe thunder storm passed over Union last Wednesday, the lightning striking, but no one injured. The gardens were considerably