

THE JOINT RESOLUTION.

Legislative History of the Constitutional Convention—Attempts to Save the Homestead, the School Tax and the Franchise and to Give the People the Deciding Vote all Promptly Defeated.

The News and Courier.

On the 28th of November, 1890, Mr. Meetze introduced in the senate a joint resolution to provide for the calling of a constitutional convention. (Senate journal, page 44.) On the 4th of December, 1890, Mr. Meetze, from the committee on the judiciary, reported this joint resolution favorably. (Journal, page 72.) On the 5th of December the joint resolution received its second reading, and was ordered for a third reading. On the second reading the yeas were 23 and the nays were 8. (Page 112.) On December 23rd, 1890, the joint resolution was continued until the next session. (Page 435.) On the 1st of December, 1891, the joint resolution to provide for the calling of a constitutional convention was taken up for a third reading.

Mr. Smythe moved to amend by adding the following to the joint resolution:

"Provided, however, that no constitution framed, or which may be framed, by such convention shall be binding or go into effect until it shall have been submitted to the people of the State for ratification, and shall have been ratified by the votes of a majority of the voters of the State voting upon such question."

This amendment was rejected—11 to 25.

Mr. Sloane moved the following amendment:

"Provided, that in the call of such convention it shall be with the distinct understanding and upon the explicit condition that any constitution to be framed by the said convention shall contain a provision for an annual tax for the benefit of the free public schools of this State of not less than the amount now prescribed by Section 5 of Article 10 of the present constitution, and that the vote of this State, as prescribed in this joint resolution, shall be considered and held as calling such constitutional convention with this limitation upon its powers."

This amendment was rejected—yeas 31, nays 5—and the joint resolution passed by a vote of 26 to 10. (Journal, pages 101, 102.)

The theory upon which these amendments were proposed in the legislature to the joint resolutions calling a constitutional convention was not that the legislature had the right to limit the powers of the convention. The opponents of the convention scheme recognized that the convention was superior to the legislature, and what it did was binding and authoritative. But they conceived the law to be that the people themselves may limit the powers of their representatives in convention assembled. If the people select representatives to go to a convention and at the time of the election the people themselves limit the authority which these delegates are to exercise, then in our opinion the delegates are so limited, because they are the representatives of the people clothed with such powers as the people chose to give them.

If then a call be submitted to the suffrages of the people, which call provides that the delegates, when in convention assembled, shall not interfere with the homestead or school fund, and that the constitution so prepared by them shall first be submitted to the people, and the people choose to adopt such a call, then the limitation is effective, not because the legislature has said anything, but because the people themselves, in selecting their delegates have seen fit to limit their authority by these provisions.

In the house the joint resolution was read the first time on December 2, 1891, and referred to the committee on judiciary. (House journal, page 139.)

The resolution came up for a second reading December 11, 1894.

Mr. Abney proposed the following amendment:

"Provided, however, that no constitution framed, or which may be framed by such convention, shall be binding or go into effect until it shall have been ratified by the votes of a majority of the qualified voters of the State voting upon such question."

Which was lost by a vote of 56 to 43.

Mr. Haskell moved the following amendment:

"Provided, That in the call of such convention it shall be with the distinct understanding and upon the explicit condition that any constitution to be framed by the said convention shall contain a provision securing a homestead to the people of this State not less than the amount now prescribed by section 33, of article 2, of the present constitution, and that the vote of the people of this State as prescribed in this joint resolution shall be considered and held as calling such constitutional convention with this limitation upon its powers."

"Provided further, That in the call of such convention it shall be with the distinct proviso that any constitution to be framed by the said convention shall contain a provision securing the tax of two mills for the common school as now provided by law and by the present constitution."

Which was lost by a vote of 71 to 32. (House journal, pages 319-320).

The matter was adjourned until December 15, 1891, when the joint resolution received a second reading by a vote of 50 to 38. (Journal, page 419.)

On the 22nd of December the joint resolution came up for a final vote in the house, when the yeas stood—yeas 51, nays 35. The joint resolution not having received a two-thirds vote it was lost.

The reason of this was that the debate in the senate on the proposed amendments, especially that requiring the constitution to be submitted to the people, had excited considerable discussion. The matter was not rushed through the house, as is seen by the dates given, and allowed sober second thought to assert itself with the result that the house refused to pass the joint resolution without the amendments.

In 1892 the tactics were reversed, and the resolution was rushed, first through the house and then through the senate. The proceedings were as follows.

On the 23rd of November, 1892, Mr. Wolfe introduced a joint resolution to provide for the calling of a constitutional convention which was referred to the committee on judiciary. (House journal, page 49.)

On November 26th the judiciary committee reported favorably on the joint resolution. (Journal, page 116.)

On December 2nd the joint resolution came up for a second reading. Mr. Bacot proposed the following amendment:

"Provided, however, that no constitution framed, or which may be framed by such convention shall be binding or go into effect until it shall have been submitted to the people of the State for ratification, and shall have been ratified by the votes of a majority of the qualified voters of the State voting upon such question."

Which was rejected by a vote of 80 to 20.

Mr. Haskell proposed the following amendment:

"Provided, that said convention shall not change or diminish either the provision of the present constitution which provides for a two mill school tax or that which provides a homestead exemption."

Which was rejected by a vote of 57 to 23. (Journal, pages 166-167.)

On December 7 the resolution was read the third time and sent to the senate. (Journal, page 214.)

In the senate the joint resolution received its first reading December 7, 1892, and was referred to the judiciary committee. (Journal, page 147.)

The next day, December 8, the judiciary committee reported favorably. (Senate journal page 160.)

The next day, December 9, the joint resolution came up for its second reading. Mr. Smythe moved the following amendment:

"Provided, however, that no constitution framed, or which may be framed, by such convention shall be binding, or go into effect, until it shall have been ratified by the votes of a majority of the qualified voters of the State voting upon such question."

Mr. Buist offered the following amendment:

"Provided, however, that before such question shall be submitted to the people there shall be a new registration of the qualified voters of the State."

Which was lost by a vote of 27 to 5.

The joint resolution then passed its second reading.

On December 13th the joint resolution came up for its third reading.

Mr. Buist proposed the following amendment:

"Provided, No vote be taken upon the call of said convention unless at least one of the commissioners of election in each county be appointed from those opposing the call for a convention, and that the commissioners of election in each county be required to appoint in each polling precinct at least one manager named by those opposed to the calling of said convention; and provided further, that any commissioner of election or manager violating the election laws of the State shall, upon conviction in the courts of the State, be subject to a fine of five hundred dollars, and imprisonment in the penitentiary for a period of not less than six months nor more than one year."

Which was rejected and the joint resolution was passed by a vote of 27 to 9.

There is a Russian law that no unmarried heir shall succeed to the throne, and if the Czarewitch desires to reign, he must marry before the Czar dies.

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court has granted a permanent injunction preventing the Standard Oil Trust from absorbing the independent oil refineries of that State.

The steam sealing ship Falcon, which conveyed the Peary Arctic exploring party to Greenland was caught in the last cyclone and is believed to have been lost.

A man named Manuel Williams is suspected of being one of the murderers of Treasurer Copes, of Orangeburg, and his arrest has been ordered. Williams is supposed to be the man who killed another in Lexington some time ago, as well as an escape from the Alabama penitentiary, and an all-round crook—a desperate fellow.

The 3 Cs road has paid its back taxes to both the counties and the State. Col. W. C. P. Breckenridge is mentioned as a factor in the U. S. Senatorial race in Kentucky.

The registration of women in Denver, Col., is almost as great as that of men. The vote will be unprecedentedly large.

Venezuela has officially accepted the invitation to be represented at the Atlanta Exposition.

George B. Hyde, one of the largest hat makers in Newark, N. J., has given in to his striking employees and they have gone back to work.

The official statistics of the number of suicides in Paris during 1893 has just been issued. The number of self-murders was 953. Of the total 231 drowned themselves, 113 used guns and revolvers, 198 of the shots being in the head; 71 stabbed themselves to death, 62 used poisons, 4 asphyxiation, and 77 threw themselves from high buildings, monuments, etc. The remainder are put down in a business-like manner as "unclassified."

Henry Bigelow Williams of Boston became a bankrupt in 1878, owing nearly \$200,000. Recently he was released from bankruptcy by due judicial process, after paying dollar for dollar and six-per cent. interest. Some of the creditors who objected to receiving interest were told by Mr. Williams that they must take all or nothing.

The cotton producers of the south have now a very good sample of what they would have to expect every year were the Hatch anti-option bill to become a law. There is, at the present time, no speculation whatever, and to this is due the extreme weakness of the market. Were speculation but a hundredth part as aggressive as it has been in the past, a reaction would long since have taken place, and cotton would be on a much higher level.—New Orleans Picayune.

Many farmers around Spartanburg report that their cotton is nearly all open. The majority have sold as they get it ready for market. They declare that they will, in a great measure, abandon the use of guano, because they cannot afford to pay present prices to raise cotton, which brings only 5 or 6 cents. They know that the price of the material that goes into guano does not depend on the price of cotton. They know that they cannot take any risks in the purchase of guano. If they set next spring as they talk now they will not buy more than half the quantity purchased last spring.

Jack Bladdon, the dispensary constable who killed a man near Spartanburg last spring while making a raid, was tried and convicted of manslaughter with a recommendation to mercy on Saturday. Judge Fraser refused to grant a new trial. Bladdon's victim was the first man whose death is chargeable to the dispensary law. Hon. Stanyarne Wilson defended Bladdon and Solicitor Schumpert prosecuted.

Governor Tillman is having some blanks printed for the reports for the distillers doing business in the State. He expects to see that the distillers return their stock and output to the dispensary authorities and keep a check on it by giving the date of sales and to whom the liquor was sold. He says that the distillers may as well realize that they will not be allowed to do any illicit business at their distilleries.

The trial of Constables McLendon and Cain and Mr. C. S. McCollough for murder committed during the Darlington dispensary war will be taken up by the court in session in Darlington this week. The trial will excite great interest throughout the State. H. H. Brunson, Esq., of Orangeburg, will defend the constables. Mr. McCollough has the ablest members of the Darlington bar retained.

The Gaffney City Cotton mills will be increased by the addition of 25,000 spindles. The mill will contain 666 looms.

The Bennettsville post office was robbed last Friday night. The Marion office suffered a few nights previous. Sumter may be the next and every precaution should be taken.

Superintendent of Education Mayfield's reports show about \$200,000 spent on public schools and \$200,000 on colleges.

NEW ORLEANS, October 19.—The following is the cotton crop statement from September 1 to October 19, inclusive: Port receipts 1,398,233 bales, against 1,060,274 last year, 1,027,166 year before last and 1,533,999 for the same time in 1891; overland to mills and Canada 128,437 bales, against 57,874 last year, 93,097 year before last and 184,156 for the same time in 1891; interior stocks in excess of September 1, 107,127, against 147,053 last year, 136,002 year before last and 242,074 for the same time in 1891; Southern mill takings, net 109,935 bales, against 111,820 last year, 109,542 year before last and 102,166 for the same time in 1891; amount of crop brought into sight during 49 days to date 1,806,732 bales, against 1,377,021 last year, 1,365,807 year before last, and 2,062,362 for the same time in 1891; amount of crop brought into sight for the week 486,803 bales, against 358,219 for the seven days ending October 19 last year, 343,555 for the same time the year before last and 518,998 for the same time in 1891; brought into sight for the first nineteen days of October 1,161,491 bales, against 871,772 last year, 829,429 year before last and 1,230,045 for the same time in 1891.

BLADON'S SENTENCE.

He Shot Down a Negro Who was Running From Him—The Judge Says the Verdict is a Righteous Verdict.

SPARTANBURG, October 22.—This morning, when Court met, a few prisoners were arraigned for sentence. Three or four negroes appeared and received their sentences.

John A. Bladon was then placed in the dock. He is a stalwart man, about 40 to 45 years old, heavy mustache, erect bearing, and weighs when in good condition 180 to 200 pounds. As he entered the dock he showed considerable trepidation. He had a worn, haggard look as though he had not slept well for several nights. The clerk, T. R. Trimmier, read in a clear distinct voice the indictment, Judge Fraser then asked him if he had anything to say more than he had said why sentence of death should not be pronounced against him.

In a weak, faltering indistinct voice he uttered a short sentence, which could not be heard a few feet away from the dock. Judge Fraser said: "I do not understand what you say." Stanyarne Wilson, his attorney, arose and said: "He says that he does not fear a verdict drawn from a hat."

The Judge then proceeded to read the sentence. It was very short. He said he did not see how the jury could come to any other conclusion than the one they reached when the evidence was considered. That he had shot down Henry Palmer when he was running from him, after all danger was over. The Judge then sentenced him to be hanged Friday, January 18, 1895, between the hours of 10 a. m. and 2 p. m.

Of course no one expects that "Bloody Jack Bladon" will be executed. His friends are in power. The shortest and cheapest solution of the whole matter would be for Governor Tillman to pardon him at once, and as an act of retributive vindictiveness to appoint him chief dispensary constable for Spartanburg and place him over this people again. That would be a fine Tillmanite stroke. An appeal will be taken to the Supreme Court.

The trial and conviction has caused considerable comment. Of course there is a difference of opinion. Some believe that Bladon had a perfect right to shoot Palmer or any other negro. The opinion of the law-abiding, law-respecting people is that it is a correct verdict, and that the jury rose above partisan prejudices to reach it. If Bladon is pardoned to morrow the moral effect will be the same as if he is hanged.—News and Courier.

WAYLAI'D AND MURDERED.

Treasurer Copes, of Orangeburg County was waylaid, murdered and robbed Saturday evening nine miles from the town of Orangeburg, while returning from collecting taxes. In their haste they failed to get \$556, which was in his left hand breeches pocket. His horse strayed up to a farm house, where it was recognized, and excited suspicion. After a short search Mr. Copes' body was found. He was lying dead by the roadside with three buckshot wounds in the temple.

The murderers had made their escape, but the State farm blood hounds were sent from Hagood on special trains as soon as possible, and put on the trail at 10 o'clock that night. They followed the trail to the bank of the North Edisto river where it ended. The entire county is aroused and it is hardly possible that the murderers can escape the hundreds searching for them.

There is no clue as to the identity of the murderers, but it is believed that they are white men. There were two tracks by the roadside, one a number 6, the other number 7.

Mr. Copes was about 56 years old, and a prominent and respected citizen. Gov. Tillman has offered a reward, and the murderers will be run down, if it is possible.

The Campaign in North Carolina.

RALEIGH, N. C., October 18.—Ex-State Democratic Chairman Summons was interviewed this evening regarding the political situation, he having just returned from the canvass. He says the legislature is safely democratic by a good majority, and that the state ticket will be elected by the usual democratic majority of ten to fifteen thousand. He regards fusion as a failure and confirms the news that the populists and republicans are getting further and further apart. Fusion, he finds, is more complete in the fifth district than elsewhere. In fact, the whole effort appears to be to carry that and the eighth district for fusion. The negroes declare that they will not support fusion and the movement find little favor in the counties east of Raleigh.

Sumter County tax payers return more than 2,000 dogs and only a few more than 6,000 hogs. We would get down to eating dog in a short time, in the event of a famine.

See the World's Fair for Fifteen Cents.

Upon receipt of your address and fifteen cents in postage stamps, we will mail you prepaid our Souvenir Portfolio of the World's Columbian Exposition, the regular price is Fifty cents, but as we want you to have one, we make the price nominal. You will find it a work of art and a thing to be prized. It contains full page views of the great buildings, with descriptions of same, and is executed in highest style of art. If not satisfied with it, we will refund the stamps and let you keep the book. Address H. E. BUCKLEN & CO., Chicago, Ill.

CAL. CAUGHMAN'S CHALLENGE.

Every Illegal Vote in the Seventh Will be Marked, November 6.

To the Editor of the State:

I hereby give the following notice to the commissioners and managers of election in the Seventh Congressional District:

1. That notice has been given me that the old dodge used by the Democratic party in former elections for bringing about the defeat of the Republican party will be resorted to against me. I desire to say that the method of managers striking tickets with pencil so as to mark them while voter is placing his ballot in the box, thereby rendering it void, will be watched and prevented at each poll.

2. That the old game of voting the registration list of each precinct of both the living and dead will not be allowed, because a party will be placed at each poll to take the number of votes cast and name of voter.

3. All registration certificates offered by voters will be seen and any person attempting to vote upon another's certificate will be taken down, and if managers allow vote to be taken upon said certificate they will be prosecuted under the statutes.

4. Notice is also given that each voter offering to vote without registration certificate will have the opportunity to make affidavit of his attempt to vote and the cause of refusal, which cause must be stated by the managers to the applicant desiring to vote. A trial justice or notary public will be at each poll to take affidavit without cost to the voter.

5. I make this announcement to put the managers on notice, because I am aware that in the past these practices have prevailed, in order to perpetuate white supremacy. In this election I regard the issue in this district of vital importance to the real Democracy, because the entire machinery is in the hands of those representing principles and theories destructive to the Democratic party. Also, I am aware and believe, as my request was not granted by Gov. Tillman, to give me representation on the board of commissioners, that fraud and rascality will be resorted to to defeat all opposition to Dr. Stokes. F. C. CAUGHMAN, Columbia, Oct. 21.

HOMICIDE IN CAMDEN.

Special to The Item.

CAMDEN, Oct. 18.—Mr. J. Douglas McDowell was shot at the Wateree River bridge, about two miles from this town to-day, by a young man named Joseph Smith.

Mr. McDowell, who was a cotton seed buyer, had a difficulty with a brother of Smith the preceding day, and it is said that the shooting grew out of this. Smith fired the first shot, and McDowell returned the fire. Mr. McDowell is shot in four places. One ball passed through the stomach, and this is probably a mortal wound. Smith received a slight flesh wound.

Bank returns clearly indicate an increase of business. Since the July report, loans have increased \$16,000,000 in New York, \$4,000,000 in Boston, \$2,000,000 in Chicago, \$4,000,000 in Philadelphia, \$2,500,000 in St. Louis, and in nearly every other city in the land in smaller sums.

If you want fine, fancy or plain Writing Paper, also Envelopes, Playing Cards, Tablets, Pencils, Pens, &c., at lowest prices, call and see A. J. China's.

Just received one of the finest and best assorted lines of Perfumery ever brought to the town. Prices low and goods guaranteed, at A. J. China's.

To join the Home Product Co-operative will cost you \$5.00 and then one dollar when a member dies—about \$10 per annum. That is cheap enough for \$1,000 insurance. Losses cost old lines less than that, with all their expenses. Co-operation beats the world for low rates in anything.

All Free. Those who have used Dr. King's New Discovery know its value, and those who have not, have now the opportunity to try it Free. Call on the advertised Druggist and get a Trial Bottle, Free. Send your name and address to H. E. Bucklen & Co Chicago, and get a sample box of Dr. King's New Life Pills free, as well as a copy of Guide to Health and Household Instructor, Free. All of which is guaranteed to do you good and cost you nothing. J. F. W. DeLorme's Drugstore.

Success in Life depends on little things. A Ripans Tabule is a little thing, but taking one occasionally gives good digestion, and that means good blood, and that means good brain and brawn, and that means success. 7-25-o

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"AN ORDINANCE."

Entitled "An Ordinance To Raise Supplies for the Fiscal Year commencing June 1st, 1894 and ending May 31st, 1895.

Be it Ordained by the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Sumter in Council assembled and by the authority of the same:

SECTION 1. That the following Annual Taxes as provided for and authorized by law, be, and the same are hereby levied for the use and purposes of said city of Sumter for the Fiscal Year commencing 1st day of June 1894, To wit: 7 mills—seventy (70) cents of the value of each one hundred dollars of Real Estate, and 7 mills—seventy (70) cents of the value of each one hundred dollars of Personal Property, within the corporate limits of said city, excepting such property as may be exempt from taxation under the Constitution and laws of the State, or by City Ordinance, and the taxes paid and collected under this Ordinance shall not exempt any property, upon which such taxes are paid, from taxation after the 30th day of September, A. D., 1895.

Sec. 2. That the phrase Real Estate as is used in this Ordinance is co-extensive with all lands, tenements and hereditaments, and the phrase Personal Property is intended to mean and include all money, goods, chattels, choses in action and evidences of debt.

Sec. 3. That all persons or corporations liable to taxation under this Ordinance, shall make payment to the Clerk and Treasurer of the City of Sumter at his office during the month of November, 1894, and upon failure to make such payment, the person or persons, or corporation or corporations so in default, shall be subject to the penalty of twenty (20) per centum upon the amount of taxes due by him, her, or them, or by said corporation or corporations; and it shall be the duty of said Clerk and Treasurer to enforce the collection of all taxes and penalties due said city of Sumter, and for this purpose, he is hereby authorized and empowered to issue executions under the corporate seal of said city, directed to the Sheriff of Sumter County, S. C., requiring him to levy and sell of the property, Real or Personal of such person or persons, corporation or corporations so in default sufficient to pay all such taxes, penalties, charges and costs.

Sec. 4. That this Ordinance shall go into effect upon the publication hereof, and all Ordinances, or parts of Ordinances conflicting are hereby repealed. Done and ratified in Council assembled and under the corporate seal of the City of Sumter this 16th day of October, A. D., 1894.

B. G. PIERSON, Mayor. [SEAL.] C. M. HURST, Clerk and Treasurer. Oct. 17.

In Poor Health

means so much more than you imagine—serious and fatal diseases result from trifling ailments neglected. Don't play with Nature's greatest gift—health.

Brown's Iron Bitters If you are feeling out of sorts, weak and generally exhausted, nervous, have no appetite and can't work, begin at once taking the most reliable strengthening medicine, which is Brown's Iron Bitters. A few bottles cure—benefit comes from the very first dose—it won't stain your teeth, and it's pleasant to take.

It Cures Dyspepsia, Kidney and Liver Neuralgia, Troubles, Constipation, Bad Blood, Malaria, Nervous ailments, Women's complaints. Get only the genuine—it has crossed red lines on the wrapper. All others are substitutes. On receipt of two stamps we will send set of Ten Beautiful World's Fair Views and book—free. BROWN CHEMICAL CO. BALTIMORE, MD.

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may look bright enough to-day, but what guarantee have you that they will be the same a few years hence? How do you know but that you will be incapacitated or deprived of your present income by an unforeseen calamity? Ask these same questions of a policy holder in the

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W. J. RODDEY, Manager, Department of the Carolinas, ROCK HILL, S. C.

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THE NEW FRENCH RHEUMATIC LOTION, by an eminent French Physician, cures Rheumatism, Neuralgia, Lumbago, all Diseases of the Skin quickly, often immediately; however, Rheumatism of long standing require some time to be cured; but they are relieved whenever the Lotion is applied. Cramps in the limbs, hands, etc., precursors to partial paralysis, are cured immediately. Price \$1.00 at DeLorme's Pharmacy. July 18.