

in order to determine the seats of those to be vacated at the expiration of the first year, according to the provisions of the 4th article, 6th section, of the Constitution of the State of Florida, which provides, "that the Senators, after their first election, shall be divided by lot into two classes; and the seats of the Senators of the first class shall be vacated at the expiration of the first year, and of the second class at the expiration of the second year; so that one-half thereof, as near as possible, may be chosen forever thereafter, annually, for the term of two years.

Which was read the first time.

On motion of Mr. Wright, the Senate took a recess until 4 o'clock, P. M.

4 o'clock, P. M.

The following message was transmitted to his Excellency, the Governor:

SENATE CHAMBER, JULY 7, 1845.

To His Excellency the Governor of Florida:

I herewith transmit, for the approval of your Excellency, a bill to be entitled An Act assenting to the purchase by the United States of certain land on the Island of Key West, for the purpose of erecting fortifications thereon, and ceding to the United States jurisdiction over the said land for the purpose aforesaid, passed by both Houses of the General Assembly, and signed by the officers thereof.

Your Obedient Servant,
THOS. F. KING,
Secretary of the Senate.

Mr. Carter offered the following resolution:

Resolved by the General Assembly of the State of Florida, That this Assembly will adjourn on the fifteenth day of this inst. July, to meet again on the third Monday of November next.

Which was read the first time.

Mr. Hawkins from the Committee on the Executive Department reported a bill to be entitled An Act to organize the office of Secretary of State,

Which was read the first time and seventy-five copies ordered to be printed.

Mr. Walker from the Committee on the Judiciary reported a bill to be entitled An Act to organize the office of Attorney General of the State of Florida,

Which was read the first time and seventy-five copies ordered to be printed.

Mr. Walker from the same Committee returned back the resolution to furnish Journals to the different precincts of the State,

Which was withdrawn by Mr. Broward.

On motion of Mr. Priest the Senate adjourned until to-morrow, 12 o'clock, M.

TUESDAY, JULY 8, 1845.

The Senate met pursuant to adjournment, and a quorum being present, the journal of yesterday's proceedings were read and approved.

Mr. Walker, from the Committee on the Judiciary, reported A bill to be entitled, An Act to organize the Circuit Courts of the State of Florida,

Which was read the first time, and one hundred copies ordered to be printed;

Also, a bill to be entitled, An Act to organize the Supreme Court of the State of Florida;

Which was read the first time, and seventy-five copies ordered to be printed.

Mr. Walker, from the same Committee, made the following report:

The Judiciary Committee, to whom was referred the memorial of John C. Poythress, Executor of George Poythress, beg leave to

REPORT:

That they have carefully examined the subject, and recommend that the prayer of the memorialist be not granted. They are led to this conclusion from a belief that, if the memorialist is properly entitled to the relief he seeks, that the same can be most appropriately sought and obtained in the Courts of Justice.

All which is respectfully submitted.

D. S. WALKER, Chairman.

Which was received and concurred in.

Mr. Hawkins, from the Committee on the Executive Department, reported

A bill to be entitled, An Act to organize the office of Comptroller of Public Accounts of the State of Florida,

Which was read the first time, laid on the table, and seventy five copies ordered to be printed.

Mr. Haughton, from the Committee on the Legislative Department, made the following

REPORT:

The Committee to whom was referred the 4th article of the Constitution of this State, entitled "Legislative Department," have had the same under consideration, and the first subjects that claimed their attention, as admitting of Legislative action, are those which refer to the time fixed upon for the election of members to the General Assembly, and the annual meeting of that body. The Constitution prescribes, for the first, the first Monday of October, and for the second, the fourth Monday of November, in each year, subject, however, to alteration by law. This is a period of the year which your Committee believes is, perhaps, as free from all roa-

sonable objections, as any which could be suggested. It is, without doubt, a time of the greatest leisure to the planting interests of the country, and as the great body of the voters, as well as a considerable majority of the members of the General Assembly of this State, in common with those of all other agricultural communities, will always be identified with these interests, it is one which cannot fail to meet their acceptance. It is, besides, the most healthy season of the year, and, therefore, more likely to ensure a general attendance at the polls, as well as a more efficient discharge of duty on the part of those who may be chosen to represent the people. The Committee, therefore, decline reporting any bill on this subject. In reference to the sixth clause of the fourth article, they ask leave to report the following:

A bill entitled, An Act to class the Senators of this State.

In reference to the 17th clause of the 4th article, the Committee ask leave to report the following bill, entitled, An Act to fix the compensation of members of the General Assembly of this State.

The Committee do not deem Legislative action in reference to any other clauses of the fourth article of the Constitution necessary at this time.

Respectfully submitted.

R. B. HAUGHTON, Chairman.

Which was received, and the bills read a first time.

Mr. Priest, from the Committee on Boundaries, made the following report:

The Committee of the Senate on the 12th article of the Constitution of the State of Florida, relating to boundaries,

REPORT:

That by the terms of said article, "the jurisdiction of the State of Florida shall extend over the Territories of East and West Florida, which, by the treaty of amity, settlement and limits, between the United States and His Catholic Majesty, on the 22d day of February, A. D. 1819, were ceded to the United States.

A dispute has existed for many years, and is still unsettled, with respect to the boundary line between the State of Georgia and Florida. Hitherto, while Florida was a Territory, its adjustment was left to the Federal Government and the State of Georgia. Now the State of Florida has the right, and it is the duty of those who administer its government, to protect the rights and interests of her citizens. The Committee will not, at this time, enter into a detail of the facts or arguments urged by those who entertain conflicting views on this question. It is highly important that this question should be definitely settled, at as early a period as possible. Georgia has already attempted the assumption of possession and disposition of many lands on the south of the line claimed by the United States and by Florida to be the true line, and legal

contests respecting the title to them, growing out of the dispute as to the boundary, have already been commenced in our Courts, between citizens of Florida and citizens of Georgia and Florida, those disputing the right of Georgia claiming under the pre-emption laws of the United States.

Difficulties also exist with respect to the northern boundary between Florida and the State of Alabama, in respect to which the same remarks may be made.

As to both these subjects, the Committee recommend the adoption of measures immediately to effect an amicable adjustment and settlement of all the existing difficulties, at as early a period as possible, every day's delay increases them.

In order that the Legislature of Florida may act understandingly on the subject, and that the State of Georgia and Alabama may be fully advised of the desire of the People of Florida, and those who administer their government, to arrange the difficulties existing as to the true boundaries between us and those States, the Committee recommend the adoption of the following joint resolution.

A RESOLUTION RESPECTING THE BOUNDARIES OF THIS STATE.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Florida, in General Assembly convened, That the Attorney General of this State be, and he is hereby instructed, to make full inquiry, and report the result of the same to the Governor, so as to lay the same before the General Assembly, on the first day of its next session, in relation to the disputed boundaries between this State and the States of Georgia and Alabama. And also that the Governor of this State be requested to open a correspondence with the authorities of the States of Alabama and Georgia, to the end that the difficulties as to these boundaries may be settled as soon as possible.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

GABRIEL PRIEST, Chairman.

Which was received, and the resolution read a first time.

A bill was received passed by the House to be entitled, An Act to repeal an act to provide the mode of punishment for certain offences at Key West, in the Southern Judicial District.

Which was read the first time.

The following communication was received from His Excellency the Governor, and read:

EXECUTIVE OFFICE,
July 8, 1845.

Gentlemen of the Senate
and House of Representatives:

I have approved the act entitled, An Act assenting to the purchase by the United States, of certain land in the Island of Key West, fo

the purpose of erecting fortifications thereon, and ceding to the United States, jurisdiction over said lands for the purpose aforesaid.

I have the honor to be, &c.

W. D. MOSELEY.

Also the following :

EXECUTIVE OFFICE, }
Tallahassee, July 8th, 1845. }

Gentlemen of the Senate

and House of Representatives :

I herewith send you a communication received from the Secretary of War of the United States, requesting the passage of an act by the Legislature of this State, consenting to the purchase by the United States, and ceding jurisdiction over, certain lands at Key West and other places within this State, for military purposes, with the papers accompanying said communication.

Having already approved an act of the Legislature in relation to the same subject, it only remains for me to submit to your consideration the propriety of passing an act explanatory and amendatory of that just referred to, in order more effectually to carry out the object contemplated by the United States government.

I have the honor to be, &c.

WM. D. MOSELEY.

Which communication from the Secretary of War, was referred to a select committee consisting of Messrs. Wall, Mays and Bell.

Mr. Wall offered the following resolution :

Resolved, That the Governor be requested to cause a certified copy of the Act giving the assent of this State to the purchase by the United States, and ceding to them jurisdiction over certain lands in the Island of Key West, &c., to be forthwith transmitted to the Secretary of War of the United States.

Which was read the first time, the rule waived, and adopted.

Mr. Wall moved that the subject matter under the 17th Article of the Constitution entitled, Schedule and Ordinance, be referred to the Committee on Banks and Corporations.

Which was adopted.

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

The resolution respecting taxation, came up on a third reading, and was laid on the table.

The resolution to adjourn on the fifteen instant, was read a second time, and laid on the table.

The resolution respecting the division of Senators into classes, was read a second time, and laid on the table.

On motion of Mr. Wright, the Senate took a recess until 4 o'clock, P. M.

4 o'clock, P. M.

Mr. Hawkins from the Committee on the Executive Department reported,

A bill to be entitled, An Act fixing the salary of Governor of this State, and to authorize the appointment of a Governor's Secretary and clerk for the Executive Department, and for other purposes.

Which was read the first time.

Mr. Walker moved to print seventy-five copies of the bill, which was lost.

Mr. Wright from the Select Committee, respecting the Library, reported

A bill to be entitled, An Act respecting the books and Maps belonging to this State.

Which was read the first time.

The bill to be entitled, An Act for the making an enumeration of the inhabitants of the State of Florida, came up, and was read a second time.

The Senate went into Committee of the whole on said bill, Mr. Mays in the chair, and after some time spent therein, rose and reported the bill back with various amendments.

Which report was received, and the amendments concurred in. Mr. Haughton offered the following, to be added to the seventh section of the bill as reported by the committee of the whole :

"Also, the amount of Corn, Sea Island and other kinds of Cotton, Tobacco, Sugar, Oranges and other tropical fruits sold in market, Oats and Potatoes, which were grown in this State during the year 1844."

Which amendment was lost.

Mr. Broward moved to strike out the words, "twenty-five per cent," in the eighth section of the bill, and insert the words, "fifteen per cent."

Which motion prevailed.

The bill was then ordered to be engrossed as amended for a third reading on to-morrow.

Mr. Walker moved to print seventy-five copies of the bill relative to fixing the salary of the Governor, appointment of Governor's secretary, &c.,

Which motion prevailed.

On motion of Mr. Walker, the Senate adjourned until to-morrow, 12 o'clock, M.

WEDNESDAY, July 9, 1845.

The Senate met pursuant to adjournment, and a quorum being present, yesterday's proceedings were read and approved.

On motion of Mr. Carter, the resolutions respecting taxation, adjournment on the 15th inst., and the division of Senators into two classes,