

Ordered that the same be certified to the House of Representatives.

Mr. Call offered the following resolution :

A resolution calling on the Governor for information in regard to the appointment of Henry Wells as Agent to select lands for the different Railroads.

Mr. McCall moved to amend the resolution by striking out the words "wholly unnecessary and uncalled for"

Mr. Dawkins offered the following amendment :

Strike out the preamble, and strike out the word "Senate" wherever it occurs in the resolution, and insert the word "Legislature" in lieu thereof.

Pending which, the Senate adjourned until to-morrow morning, 10 o'clock.

—o—
WEDNESDAY, December 14th, 1859.

Senate met pursuant to adjournment.

A quorum present.

Rev. Dr. DuBose officiated as Chaplain.

The Journal of yesterday was read.

Mr. Call moved that the Journal of yesterday be corrected by spreading at large upon the same the following preamble and resolution, offered by him on yesterday, viz :

WHEREAS, The Governor of this State has informed this General Assembly that he did on the 7th of September last, appoint Henry Wells an agent to select for the different Railroads other lands in lieu of those that might have been disposed of by the United States previous to the passage of the Act of Congress, approved May 17th, 1856, granting lands to this State to aid in the construction of said railroads; *And Whereas*, It was the opinion of many members of the Senate that said lands had already been selected by agents appointed by a former Governor, which selections had been approved by the proper authorities at Washington, and list of said lands certified to the different railroads, under which list the said companies had taken possession of said lands and were proceeding to sell the same, and that in consequence, the appointment of said Henry Wells as such agent, was not only wholly unnecessary and uncalled for, but will have a tendency to embarrass the said companies in their land sales—to

throw a cloud upon their titles, and thus materially retard the final completion of said roads; therefore,

Resolved, That the Governor be and he is hereby requested to communicate to this Senate, what steps had been taken by his predecessor or himself in reference to the selection of said lands previous to the 7th September last—how far any previous agents may have gone in the discharge of their duties—what action has been had by the authorities at Washington in reference to such selections, and what lands remain to be selected; also that he communicate to this Senate, copies of any correspondence between himself or his predecessor and the authorities at Washington, in reference to said selections, and the particulars of the contract, if any, with the said Henry Wells, and the amount of compensation to be allowed him for his services in selecting.

The yeas and nays were called for by Messrs. Baker and McCall

Upon which the vote was :

Yeas—Messrs. Call, Dell, Duncan, Eppes, Eubanks, Hawes, Jones, Keitt, Lamar, McQueen, Nicholson and Walker—12.

Nays—Messrs. Baker, Dawkins, McCall, McElvy and Welch—5.
So said motion was adopted.

Mr. McCall moved that the vote taken upon the bill for the relief of Spencer T. Thomas, be reconsidered and placed among the orders of the day;

Which motion was adopted, and,

On motion of Mr. Baker, the bill was placed back upon its second reading.

Mr. Call moved that the Secretary of the Senate be and he is hereby instructed to number the several orders of the day, in the regular order in which they were placed among the orders, and that he do hereafter read said orders in regular rotation, except when otherwise directed by the Senate;

Which motion was adopted.

Notice was given of intention to introduce the following bills at some future day :

By Mr. Duncan :

A bill to be entitled an Act to authorize Joseph D. Smith to assume the management of his own estate;

A bill to be entitled an Act for the relief of Wm. Day and L. B. McTyer, Clerk and Sheriff of Hamilton county; and

A bill to be entitled an Act to incorporate the town of Jasper.

Pursuant to previous notice the following bills were introduced and placed among the orders of the day :

By Mr. McCall :

A bill to be entitled an Act to provide for filling vacancies in the office of Register of State lands; Also,

A bill to be entitled an Act declaratory of the sense of the General Assembly as to the grant of lands to aid in the construction of the "different Rail-roads in this State."

By Mr. Baker :

A bill to be entitled an Act for the relief of Spencer T. Thomas; also,

Resolutions for the relief of William Newbern ;

Mr Lamar moved that the claim of F. H Flagg be referred to the Committee on Propositions and Grievances, with instructions to the Committee to report a bill for the relief of said F. H. Flagg, if the claim is found to be just ;

Which motion was adopted.

Mr. Baker asked leave to withdraw the petition and papers, relative to the bill for the relief of Spencer T. Thomas ;

Which was granted.

The following message was received from the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund :

OFFICE SECRETARY OF STATE, }
December 12th, 1859. }

HON. JOHN FINLAYSON,

President of the Senate :

Sir:—I am instructed in answer to the enquiries contained in the resolutions of the Senate addressed to the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund to state as follows :

To the first resolution they answer that as appears by a report of the Commissioner of the General Land Office submitted to Congress in 1858, there has been selected the number of 11,790,637 46-100 ; approved the number of 10,701,494 88-100 acres of Swamp and Overflowed Lands, and there has been patented to the State the number of 10,618,549 35-100 acres. The Fund arising from the sale thereof has been applied as authorized by the Internal Improvement law to the payment of interest on the Bonds of the Railroad Companies, except so much of it as has heretofore (as shown in the former reports of the Trustees) been invested in the Bonds of said Companies; and also, towards the payment of the Agents for selecting the Swamp Lands.

The Trustees have taken no steps, and have made no contracts for the selection and classification of the Swamp Lands. Messrs. Randolph and Wells entered into a contact with the State through Governor Brown before the Trust Fund was created, and the Trustees have not regarded it as their duty, nor that they were authorized to make any other contract. The only steps they know of as having been taken are by the contract before referred to as having been made with Governor Brown. Under said contract the lands

above referred to have been selected, but we do not know whether they have been classified.

In answer to the second resolution, the Trustees report that they have paid to Messrs. Randolph and Wells for their services under said contract, the sum of \$82,473 46. The authority under which this payment has been made, is that contained in the Internal Improvement law, which declares, that after paying the expenses of *selections*, management and sale, the lands and the funds arising from the sale thereof, shall be vested in the Trustees for the purposes declared in the law. Under this law the Trustees felt and considered that the payment of what was due for selecting the land as well as what was necessary in the management and sale of the land, was as much their duty under the Trust as any other duty therein imposed. Indeed it appears to have been intended as the first duty, since only the land and the fund remaining after these payments were set apart for the purposes contemplated by the Internal Improvement law. The Trustees are not advised how much is still claimed as due and owing to the Agents, Messrs. Randolph and Wells, nor can it well be ascertained until after the confirmations by the Department at Washington.

In answer to the third resolution, the Trustees report that they cannot state how much is due from the United States for Swamp Lands sold after the passage of the Act granting the same to the State. It will be impossible to ascertain this until the account is stated at Washington. The Trustees cannot state what obstacles exist to prevent the recovery of what remains due. One difficulty made by the Department in the beginning, was that they required evidence to prove that the land claimed as swamp, was really of that character; on remonstrance by the Agents, the Department modified this requirement; and instead thereof, declared that a separate list of these lands, with the affidavit of the Agents attached of a like character with that appended to the original lists, would be considered as sufficient, and upon which the Department would proceed to adjust the account. This matter was brought to the attention of the Agents, with a request that they would conform to the requirement of the Department, and the Trustees were advised that they would do so. The Trustees were advised that up to the time of the adjustment of the first account, these additional affidavit lists had not been filed; the reason assigned by the Agents for not filing them, was that they desired to have the first account first adjusted and settled, before they presented the lists upon which the other account was to be based.

On the first account which was based on what was called the

topographical list, the Trustees have received the sum of \$42,038 55.
I have the honor to be sir,

Your obedient servant,

F. L. VILLEPIGUE,
Sec'y Board T. In. Im. Fund.

Which was read, and
On motion of Mr. McCall, it was ordered that the response be spread upon the journal.

The Committee on Enrolled bills made the following report:

The Committee on Enrolled bills report as correctly enrolled, the following bills:

A bill to be entitled an Act to amend an Act entitled an Act to organize the county of Volusia, approved Jan. 29th, 1854;

A bill to be entitled an Act to correct an error in a printed bill entitled an Act to create the counties of Suwannee and New River;

A bill to be entitled an Act to authorize William F. Green, of Gadsden county, to contract and be contracted with;

A bill to be entitled an Act to change the name of Hugh Martin Newsoms to Hugh Martin Keen;

A bill to be entitled an Act to change the name of Mary King to Mary Hancock;

A bill to be entitled an Act to authorize Edmund N. Everett, of Washington county, to assume the management and control of his own property.

Respectfully submitted,

L. G. McELVY, Chairman.

Which report was received and read.

Mr. Nicholson from the Committee on Engrossed bills made the following report:

The Committee on Engrossed Bills beg leave to report the following bills as correctly engrossed:

A bill to be entitled an Act to authorize Daniel Newnan Cone, a minor of Columbia county, to assume the management of his own estate;

A bill to be entitled an Act to authorize the Solicitors of the different Circuits in this State, to change the venue in criminal cases, under certain circumstances;

A bill to be entitled an Act to amend an Act to permit free persons of African descent, to select their own masters and become slaves approved, January 6th 1859.

Respectfully submitted,

A. W. NICHOLSON,
Acting Chairman.

Which was read and the accompanying bills placed among the orders of the day.

Mr. Baker from the Committee on Corporations, made the following report:

The Committee on Corporations to whom was referred the following bill, most respectfully

REPORT,

That as to a bill to be entitled an Act to organize a Fire Insurance Company in Pensacola under the name of "Pensacola Insurance Company;"

1. That Insurance Companies not asking *exclusive* or *inclusive* concessions are commendable;

2. That in this view *only* as an Act of this Legislature, conceding no vested rights contrary to the Constitution of this State, they recommend the passage of the bill.

Respectfully submitted,

J. McROBERT BAKER,
Chairman Com. on Corporations.

Which was read and the accompanying bill placed among the orders of the day.

Mr. Baker from the Committee on Corporations, made the following report:

The Committee on Corporations to whom was referred the "bill to be entitled an Act to Incorporate the Lagoon and Perdido Canal Company," beg leave respectfully to

REPORT:

1. That there is no evidence of advertisement.

2. That the terms used in the fourth section of said bill, wherein it is enumerated that "said Company shall be and they are hereby invested with all the rights and powers necessary for the proper construction and keeping of said Canal," are too large and too free, and at the same time too *indefinite* and unconfined to be solely invested in any one Company in any section of this State.

3. Hence, your Committee beg leave to report the bill back to the Senate, and request to be discharged from the further consideration of the same.

J. McROBERT BAKER,
Chairman Com. on Corporations.

Which was received and read, and the accompanying bill placed among the orders of the day.

Mr. McQueen, from the Committee on claims and accounts made the following report :

The Committee on claims and accounts to whom has been referred a resolution for the relief of certain parties, holding State witness and jury scrip, ask leave to,

REPORT:

That they have had the same under consideration, and recommend its passage.

Respectfully submitted,
J. W. McQUEEN,
Chairman.

Which was received and read, and the accompanying bill placed among the orders of the day.

Mr. McQueen from the Committee on Claims and Accounts made the following report :

The Committee on Claims and Accounts to whom has been referred a bill to be entitled an Act for the relief of Allen Gibson, ask leave to

REPORT,

That they have had the same under consideration, and from the evidence presented, your Committee believe that said Allen Gibson, of the county of Marion, did furnish forage and subsistence to Capt. Carter's Company of Mounted Volunteers, and should receive full remuneration for the same; and your Committee recommends, that, if said Allen Gibson shall present to the Comptroller of State Accounts, full and satisfactory evidence and vouchers of the justice and equity of his claim, then it shall be the duty of the Comptroller to audit said claim and issue his certificate; and that the Governor be authorized on the presentation of said certificate, to pay the same out of any moneys in his possession, or that may hereafter come into his possession, applicable to forage and subsistence of the Volunteers. Your Committee therefore recommend the passage of the bill.

Respectfully submitted,
J. W. McQUEEN, Chairman.

Which was received, and the accompanying bill placed among the orders of the day.

The Committee on Propositions and Grievances made the following report :

The Committee on Propositions and Grievances to whom was re-

ferred a petition from many citizens of Lafayette county, asking relief for Andrew J. Lanier, of said county, have had the same under consideration, and recommend the passage of the following joint resolution :

Joint resolution for the relief of Andrew J. Lanier, of Lafayette county.

Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Florida in General Assembly convened, That Andrew J. Lanier, of the county of Lafayette, be, and is hereby released from the payment of a certain Bond, assigned by him as security for the appearance of one Green Bustle at the Fall Term of the Circuit Court of the Suwannee Circuit of this State, for 1859.

D. C. DAWKINS,
Chairman.

Which was received, and the accompanying resolution placed among the orders of the day.

The Committee on Internal Improvements made the following reports :

MR. PRESIDENT:

Sir:—A majority of the committee to whom was referred, a bill to be entitled an Act still further defining the duties of the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund, have instructed the undersigned to

REPORT:

That the laws on that subject are now amply sufficient, and recommend that the bill do not pass.

T. B. LAMAR,
Chm'n Com. Int. Imp.

The undersigned, a minority of aforesaid Committee, begs leave to dissent from the opinion of the majority, and recommend that the bill do pass.

T. B. LAMAR.

Which were received, and the accompanying bill placed among the orders of the day.

A Select Committee made the following report :

MR. PRESIDENT :

Sir:—The committee to whom was referred a resolution relative to the office of Register of U. S. Lands at Tallahassee, beg leave to

REPORT:

That they have had the same under consideration, and recommend that it do pass.

Respectfully submitted,
T. B. LAMAR,
L. G. McELVY.

Which was received, and the accompanying Resolution placed among the orders of the day.

The following message was received from the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
Dec. 12, 1859. }

HON. JOHN FINLAYSON,

President of the Senate:

Sir:—The House of Representatives has this day passed the following bills, viz:

A bill to be entitled an Act concerning Roads;

A bill to be entitled an Act to regulate the fees of Notary Publics in the county of St. Johns;

A bill to be entitled an Act to amend an Act entitled an Act to divide the county of Duval, and organize a new county to be called Clay County, approved by the Governor Dec. 31st, 1858;

A bill to be entitled an Act concerning Pilots and Pilotage at Cedar Keys;

A bill to be entitled an Act to create and regulate Pilotage at the Port of Bay Port in the county of Hernando; also Senate bills;

A bill to be entitled an Act for the relief of Andrew J. Moore and Wm. S. Dilworth;

A bill to be entitled an Act to authorize Spencer Price, of Levy county, to establish a ferry from No. 4, on the mainland, to the Western terminus of the Florida Railroad on Way Key, thence across the bay to the city of Atseena Otie;

A bill to be entitled an Act to empower John W. Broxon and Isaac Broxon to assume the management of their own estates;

A bill to be entitled an Act to establish a ferry across the Ocklawaha river;

A bill to be entitled an Act to amend the law allowing appeals from the decision of the Board of County Commissioners in this State; and

Resolution relative to the establishment of the boundary line between the States of Georgia and Florida; and have rejected;

A bill to be entitled an Act to authorize Guardians, Administra-

tors and Executors to invest the moneys of Wards, Testators and Intestates of Leon county, in the Railroad bonds of said county.

Very Respectfully,

E. M. GRAHAM,
Clerk House of Representatives.

Which was received and read, and the accompanying House bills placed among the orders of the day, and the Senate bills ordered to be enrolled.

The following Message from the House of Representatives was received:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
December 12th, 1859. }

HON. JOHN FINLAYSON,

President of the Senate:

Sir:—The House of Representatives have passed the following bills, viz:

A bill to be entitled an Act for the relief of H. T. Blocker; also,

A bill for the relief of M. F. Papy.

Very Respectfully,

E. M. GRAHAM,
Clerk House Representatives.

Which was received, and the accompanying bills placed among the orders of the day.

The rules being waived, Mr. McElvy introduced without previous notice,

A bill to be entitled an Act to amend an Act entitled an Act, to provide for the payment, pro rata of the debts of insolvent estates;

Which was placed among the orders of the day;

Mr. Eubanks moved that the rules be waived to allow the bill to organize the County of Perry, to be taken up and placed first among the orders of the day;

The yeas and nays were called for by Messrs. Call and McCall;

Upon which the vote was:

Yeas—Messrs. Baldwin, Dawkins, Duncan, Eppes, Eubanks, Hawes, Jones, Lamar McCall, McElvy, McQueen, Nicholson and Welch—13.

Nays—Messrs. Call, Keitt and Walker—3.

So the motion was adopted.

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

House bill to be entitled an Act to organize the County of Perry; Was read the second time.

Mr. McElvy moved to amend; by adding the following additional section :

SEC.— *Be it further enacted*, That until the said county of Perry, shall be entitled to separate Representations, it shall vote for Representative with the county of Hillsborough ;

Which amendment was accepted.

Mr. Call offered as a substitute,

A bill to be entitled an Act to ascertain the population of a district, therein named with a view to the formation of a new county ;

On which the yeas and nays were called for by Messrs. Baker and McCall ;

Upon which the vote was :

Yeas—Messrs. Call, Dell, Hawes, Jones, Keitt, Lamar, McQueen, Nicholson, Walker and Welch—10.

Nays—Messrs. Baker, Baldwin, Dawkins, Duncan, Eubanks, McCall, and McElvy—7.

So the substitute was adopted and placed among the orders of the day.

A bill to be entitled an Act to amend an Act to permit free persons of African descent to select their own masters and become slaves, approved January 15th, 1859 ;

Was read the third time and put upon its passage ;

Upon which the vote was :

Yeas—Messrs. Baker, Call, Dawkins, Dell, Duncan, Eppes, Eubanks, Hawes, Jones, Keitt, Lamar, McElvy, McQueen, Walker and Welch—15.

Nays—Messrs. Baldwin and Nicholson—2.

So said bill passed—title as stated.

Ordered that the same be certified to the House of Representatives.

A bill to be entitled an Act to incorporate the Apalachicola and New Orleans Steam Navigation Company ;

Was read the first time, rules waived, read a second time by its title and ordered to be engrossed for a third reading on to-morrow.

A bill to be entitled an Act to incorporate the Apalachicola and Columbus Steamboat Company ;

Was read the first time, rules waived, read a second time by its title and ordered to be engrossed for a third reading on to-morrow.

A bill to be entitled an Act to incorporate the city of Ocala ;

Was read a third time and put upon its passage ;

Upon which the vote was :

Yeas—Messrs. Baker, Baldwin, Call, Dawkins, Dell, Duncan, Eppes, Eubanks, Hawes, Jones, Keitt, Lamar, McElvy, McQueen, Nicholson, Walker and Welch—17.

Nays—None.

So said bill passed—title as stated.

Ordered that the same be certified to the House of Representatives.

House bill to be entitled an Act to allow spirituous liquors to be drank where sold ;

Was read the first time, rules waived, read a second and third times by its title, and put upon its passage ;

Upon which the vote was :

Yeas—Messrs. Baker, Dawkins, Dell, Duncan, Eppes, Eubanks, Jones, Keitt, Lamar, McElvy, McQueen, Walker and Welch—13.

Nays—Messrs. Baldwin, Call, Hawes and Nicholson—4.

So said bill passed—title as stated.

Ordered that the same be certified to the House of Representatives.

House bill to be entitled an Act for the relief of Samuel B. Williford ;

Was read the first time, rules waived, read a second and third time by its title, and put upon its passage ;

Upon which the vote was :

Yeas—Messrs. Baker, Baldwin, Dawkins, Dell, Duncan, Eppes, Eubanks, Hawes, Jones, Keitt, Lamar, McElvy, McQueen, Nicholson, Walker and Welch—16.

Nays—None.

So said bill passed—title as stated.

Ordered that the same be certified to the House of Representatives.

House bill to be entitled an Act for the relief of Isaac N. Shepard, of Gadsden county ;

Was read the first time, rules waived, read a second time by its title, and ordered for a third reading on to-morrow.

House bill to be entitled an Act for the relief of Isaac N. Shepard, Guardian of the minor heirs of Henry M. Shepard, of Gadsden county, deceased ;

Was read the first time, rules waived, read a second time by its title, and ordered for a third reading on to-morrow.

House bill to be entitled an Act to amend the attachment laws of this State ;

Was read the first time, rules waived, read a second and third times by its title, and put upon its passage ;

Upon which the vote was :

Yeas—Messrs. Baker, Baldwin, Dawkins, Dell, Duncan, Eppes, Eubanks, Hawes, Jones, Keitt, Lamar, McCall, McElvy, McQueen, Nicholson, Walker and Welch—17.

Nays—None.

So said bill passed—title as stated.

Ordered that the same be certified to the House of Representatives.

On motion of Mr. McCall, the Senate took a recess until half past three o'clock, p. m.

HALF-PAST THREE O'CLOCK, P. M.

The Senate resumed its session.

A quorum present.

The rules being waived, Mr. Baldwin introduced without previous notice,

A bill to be entitled an Act in relation to the duties of Justices of the Peace, &c.; and

A bill to be entitled an Act to remove in part, obstructions to commerce at the port of Jacksonville;

Which were placed among the orders of the day.

A bill to be entitled an Act for the relief of Allen Gibson;

Was read a second time.

Mr. Dell moved to amend by inserting the name of Solomon F. Haliday, of the county of Alachua, after that of Allen Gibson, wherever it occurs in the bill;

Which amendment was adopted, and

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

Resolution for the relief of certain parties holding State jury and witness scrip;

Was read the second time, rules waived, read a third time by its title, and put upon its passage;

Upon which the vote was:

Yeas—Messrs. Baker, Baldwin, Call, Dawkins, Dell, Eubanks, Hawes, Jones, Lamar, McCall, McElvy, Nicholson, Walker and Welch—14.

Nays—None.

So said resolution passed—title as stated.

Ordered that the same be certified to the House of Representatives.

Resolution relative to the office of Register of U. S. Lands, at Tallahassee;

Was read the second time.

Mr. Baker moved to amend as follows:

And that whereas the other rooms in the Capitol are rented out to private individuals for \$100 per annum; and whereas the expenses of the State as to the public buildings and offices are already sufficiently large; therefore the passage of this bill is and shall be

considered as a bonus upon the part of the State of Florida to a Federal officer.

On the adoption of the amendment, the yeas and nays were called for by Messrs. Baker and McCall;

Upon which the vote was:

Yeas—Messrs. Baker, McCall and Walker—3.

Nays—Messrs. Baldwin, Call, Dawkins, Dell, Eubanks, Hawes, Jones, Keitt, Lamar, McQueen, Nicholson and Welch—12.

So the amendment was lost.

Mr. Lamar moved to waive the rules so that the resolution might be read a third time;

On which motion the yeas and nays were called for by Messrs. Baker and McCall;

Upon which the vote was:

Yeas—Messrs. Baldwin, Call, Dell, Eubanks, Hawes, Jones Keitt, Lamar, McCall, McElvy, McQueen, Walker and Welch—13.

Nays—Messrs. Baker and Dawkins—2.

So the motion was adopted, and

The resolution read the third time and put upon its passage;

Upon which the vote was:

Yeas—Messrs. Baldwin, Call, Dawkins, Dell, Eubanks, Hawes, Jones, Keitt, Lamar, McElvy, McQueen, Nicholson, Walker and Welch—14.

Nays—Messrs. Baker and McCall—2.

So said resolution passed—title as stated.

Ordered that the same be certified to the House of Representatives.

A bill to be entitled an Act still further defining the duties of the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund;

Was read the second time; and

On motion of Mr. Baldwin, was passed over informally until to-morrow.

A bill to be entitled an Act to incorporate the Lagoon and Perdido Canal Company;

Was read the first time, rules waived, read a second time by its title, and on motion of Mr. Dell, was laid on the table.

The rules being waived, Mr. Eppes moved to reconsider the vote taken this morning upon the passage of the bill to be entitled an Act to amend the attachment laws of this State;

Which motion was adopted.

On motion of Mr. Eppes, the bill was placed upon its second reading.

Mr. Eppes then moved to amend the bill by striking out in the 24th line of section 1st, all after the word "same" in said section, it being the concluding oath in said section;

Which amendment was adopted, and the bill as amended put up on its passage;

Upon which the vote was:

Yeas—Messrs. Baker, Baldwin, Call, Dawkins, Dell, Eppes, Enbanks, Hawes, Jones, Lamar, McElvy, Nicholson, Walker and Welch—14.

Nays—None.

So said bill passed—title as stated.

Ordered that the bill as amended be certified to the House of Representatives.

A bill to be entitled an Act to organize a fire Insurance Company in Pensacola, under the name of Pensacola Insurance Company;

Was read the first time, rules waived, read a second time by its title and ordered to be engrossed for a third reading on to-morrow.

On motion, the Senate took a recess until 7 o'clock, P. M.

SEVEN O'CLOCK, P. M.

The Senate resumed its session.

No quorum present.

On motion of Mr. Lamar, the Senate adjourned until half-past 9 o'clock, to-morrow morning.

THURSDAY, December 15th, 1859.

Senate met pursuant to adjournment.

A quorum present.

On motion of Mr. Dell, the further reading of yesterday's journal was dispensed with, and the journal corrected and approved.

Mr. McQueen moved that a resolution to change mail route No. 1643, be placed first among the orders of the day;

Which motion was adopted.

On motion of Mr. Call, House bill to be entitled an Act to authorize Susan Croom to manage her own estate was placed second, among the orders of the day.

The following communication from the Chamber of Commerce of the State of New York, was received:

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
NEW YORK, November 26th 1859.

To the President of the Senate,

Tallahassee Florida.

The undersigned Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, being duly authorized to address the Chambers, Associations, ect., in the cotton-growing States, respecting sandy and fraudulently packed cotton, beg leave to request your attention to these matters.

It may be of little use to discuss the question whether sandy cotton is the result of negligence or fraud, because it has had its day, and like other detected adulterations, will probably cease. A few remarks however, seem necessary.

The origin of it is comparatively recent; for there was no appreciable quantity of sand in the great crop of 1839—1840, although an unusually large quantity of cotton was then picked from the ground. The great increase of the evil during the last three years is to be ascribed in part to the short supply of our cotton in 1857 and 1858, and to the scarcity of Surat cotton in the latter year, which facilitated the sale of almost any quality, however inferior; but the abundant supply of both in 1859, together with the still increased quantity of sand, began to stop the demand for it at Liverpool last spring. Shippers may have contributed to promote the evil by purchasing freely and carelessly, but they were deluded by the Liverpool valuations of last winter; perhaps, also, the greater prevalence of transit sales in this city, where the sand is necessarily more or less shaken out of the sample papers, may be charged with a portion of the blame, as, by facilitating the operations of speculators, it probably retarded the rejection of sandy cotton in the Southern markets.

These things have no doubt tended to promote negligence on the part of planters, and naturally led to the state of affairs named by an extensive planter, whose remarks were substantially as follows, viz: that he continues to use flues, although in the last few years more and more planters have given them up; that he has been urged to do so too, for the reason that sandy sold within one fourth cent per pound, of clean cotton, and contained barrels and barrels of sand and dust which his flues would exclude.

The false or fraudulent packing of cotton is a different subject and requires special attention.

Of late years factors in New Orleans, Mobile and other cotton ports have refused to pay European and Northern claims for false packing, unless the planters' mark is stated in the certificate, however clear the evidence that they had sold the Cotton to the claimant.

This has naturally operated as one form of premium to fraud; and the reported repeal of the laws of some States which required the planter to mark his name upon each bale, may be regarded as another