

Was read a second time, and ordered to be engrossed for a third reading to-morrow.

A bill to be entitled an Act for the relief of Benjamin Hopkins, and others;

Was read a third time, and on motion, was passed over informally, until to-morrow.

A bill to be entitled an Act for the recovery of taxes illegally exacted;

Was read the second time, and ordered to be engrossed for a third reading on to-morrow.

Resolution recommending to the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund, certain proceedings in regard to the several Railroad Companies;

Was read a second time, and ordered to be engrossed for a third reading on to-morrow.

House bill to be entitled an Act to unite the offices of Judge of Probate and Clerk of the Circuit Court, in Volusia county;

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

Upon which the vote was:

Yeas—Mr. President, Messrs. Baker, Baldwin, Call, Dell, Duncan, Eppes, Hawes, Jones, Lamar, McElvy, McQueen, Nicholson, Walker and Welch—15.

Nays—None.

So said bill passed—title as stated.

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

On motion, the Senate adjourned until to-morrow morning, 10 o'clock.

SATURDAY, December, 17th, 1859:

The Senate met pursuant to adjournment.

A quorum present.

Rev. Dr. DuBose officiated as Chaplain.

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

Mr. Dawkins moved that Mr. Watlington, the Senator from the 20th District, be sworn in;

Whereupon the oath was administered by T. J. Eppes, Notary Public;

Pursuant to previous notice, Mr. Hawes introduced,

A bill to be entitled an Act to incorporate the Palatka Railroad Company;

The rules being waived, the bill was read the first and second times by its title, and referred to the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. Eppes offered the following resolutions;

WHEREAS, grave charges are made and preferred in the resolutions offered on the 15th inst., by the Senator from Nassau, touching and relating to a contract made and entered into between Governor Thomas Brown and Messrs. Henry Wells and A. M. Randolph, "in accordance with the provisions of an Act of Congress, entitled an Act to enable the State of Arkansas and other States, to reclaim the Swamp Lands within their limits," approved Sep. 28, 1851, and of an Act of the General Assembly of Florida, passed in conformity therewith, entitled an Act to secure the Swamp and overflowed lands, lately granted to the State, and for other purposes, approved Jan. 24, 1851;

AND WHEREAS, the General Assembly is called upon in said resolutions to express their opinion, and to condemn, apparently without investigation, the conduct of the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund, in the payment made by them to Messrs. Wells and Randolph, and harshly to judge the conduct of said contractors under said contract referred to;

AND WHEREAS, justice to said parties, to the State at large, and to the Trustees, demand a full, fair, and impartial investigation, and that the Legislature should not unadvisedly, hastily or intemperately act in the premises; Therefore,

Be it Resolved by the Senate, That said resolutions of the Senator from Nassau, together with the contract referred to therein, which were offered on the 15th inst., and spread upon the journals of the Senate, and made the orders of the day for the ensuing day, together with the report of the Trustees and all papers submitted relating thereto, be, and the same are hereby referred to a select committee of five to be appointed by the Chair, to investigate the charges, all and singular, made and preferred therein or touching, or in any way relating to the subject, and that said committee have full power to send for persons or papers and to fully investigate all the charges, matters and things set forth and contained or in anywise embraced or referred to in said resolutions, and to report the evidence so taken to this General Assembly.

Which was read and adopted.

Whereupon the Chair appointed Messrs. McElvy, Dawkins, Baker, McQueen and Duncan as such committee.

The Committee on Engrossed Bills made the following report:

MR. PRESIDENT :

The Committee an Engrossed bills report as correctly engrossed, the following bills and resolutions :

A bill to be entitled an Act for the recovery of taxes illegally exacted ;

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

A bill to be entitled an Act concerning Pilotage at the Port of Fernandina ;

Resolution relative to the Indian and St. Johns River Canal ;

Resolution recommending to the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund certain proceedings in regard to the several Railroad Companies.

Respectfully submitted,

ISAAC WELCH,
Acting Ch'n Com. on Engrossed Bills.

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

Mr. Baker from the Senate Committee appointed at the last session of the Legislature, to examine the Books of the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Board, presented the following questions and communication relative to the same, and moved that Messrs. Nicholson, McQueen and himself be discharged from the further investigation of the same ;

Which motion was adopted.

TALLAHASSEE, Dec. 13th, 1859.

Gents :—Be pleased to inform me,

1st. What amount or near about the same, (as far as you can now estimate the same) has been paid by you for books, maps, charts, plats copied of Grants, &c., for and about the selection of the Overflowed and Swamp Lands for the State, under Act of Congress of September 28th, 1850.

2nd. What amount or the nearest proximate estimate you can give me, has been expended by you in the selection of said lands.

3rd. What amount or the nearest proximate amount to be derived at, has been saved and preserved to the State by the superior quality and consequent increased value of land selected by you for the State, under the said Act of Sept. 28th, 1850, and under your contract with the Governor of this State, dated — day of —, A. D., 1851.

You will much oblige me and the Committee by answering the above enquiries.

Very Respectfully,
Yours, &c.,

J. McROBERT BAKER,
Ch'n Joint Com. Investigation Senate and House.
MESSRS. RANDOLPH AND WELLS, State Agents, &c., present.

Response of Hugh A. Corley to the within and foregoing questions in absence of Wells and Randolph :

1. Advanced and paid out by Wells, considerably upwards of twenty-five thousand dollars.

2. Private expenses of two persons engaged in a work of this character, involving traveling expenses throughout the State and to Washington and back, board bills, &c., in Washington and St. Augustine are difficult to be estimated.

How far the Contract has been executed :

1. They have used all due and proper diligence in securing the Swamp Lands so far as the United States surveys have extended, except in the recently surveyed townships, plats of which have just been received.

2. The lands have not been classified according to the meaning of the word "classify," under the laws existing at the date of the contract. The State lands were then divided into three classes with a fixed price for each class ; this system has now been abolished. The agents, plats show the description of land on nearly every mile of line now in the State, and when pine or hammock, designate whether 1st, 2nd or 3rd rate.

3. They obtained township maps from the office of Surveyer General and the local Land Offices ; and from the local Land Offices and General Land Office obtained the numbers of all entries or lands previously disposed of by the General Government, and tested the accuracy of the topography by examination on the ground.

4. Note books as provided by said Act were prepared in a form not materially differing from the one prescribed by the Act.

5. From these lists were compiled maps as required.

6. The note books were delivered to the Governor, (Brown) but instead of delivering the township maps to be forward by the Register to Washington as originals, from which the final copies were to be made, they went to Washington and had the final copies there prepared at their own cost.

The selection of land, in the unsurveyed district has not of course been completed.

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

A bill to be entitled an Act providing for filling vacancies in the office of Register of State Lands;

Was read the first time, rules waived, read the second time by its title, and referred to the Committee on Elections.

House bill to be entitled an Act to afford a rule for the construction of Wills and deeds in certain cases;

Was read the first time and ordered for a second reading on Monday.

House bill to be entitled an Act to amend an Act to provide for the recording of marks and brands of cattle shipped from the counties of Manatee and Hillsborough, passed at the ninth General Assembly, approved January 13th 1859;

Was read the first time and ordered for a second reading on Monday.

House bill to be entitled an Act to amend an Act entitled an Act to incorporate the city of Atseena Otie;

Was read the first time and ordered for a second reading on Monday.

House bill to be entitled an Act to empower Thomas J. Chace, a minor of Jefferson county, to assume the management of his own estate;

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

Upon which the vote was:

Yeas—Mr. President, Messrs. Baker, Call, Dawkins, Dell, Duncan, Hawes, Jones, Keitt, Lamar, McElvy, McQueen, Nicholson and Watlington—14.

Nay—Mr. Walker—1.

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 amend an Act entitled an Act to amend an Act entitled an Act to incorporate the town of Quincy, approved February, 12th 1837, approved January, 13th 1859;

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

Upon which the vote was:

Yeas—Mr. President, Messrs. Baker, Baldwin, Call, Dawkins, Dell, Duncan, Eppes, Hawes, Jones, Keitt, Lamar, McElvy, McQueen, Nicholson, Walker, Watlington and Welch—18.

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 extend the jurisdiction of Justices of the Peace of this State;

Was read the first time, and ordered for a second reading on Monday.

House bill to be entitled an Act for the relief of Alexander Douglas, Peter C. Wilkins and Kenneth McCaskell;

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—Mr. President, Messrs. Baldwin, Call, Dawkins, Dell, Duncan, Eppes, 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.

A bill to be entitled an Act in addition to and amendatory of the several acts concerning Pleading and Practice in civil and criminal cases;

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—Mr. President, Messrs. Baker, Baldwin, Call, Dawkins, Dell, Duncan, Hawes, Jones, Keitt, Lamar, McElvy, McQueen, Nicholson, Walker, Watlington and Welch—17.

Nay—Mr. Eppes—1.

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 empower David Franklin Houck to assume the management of his own estate;

Was read a third time and put upon its passage;

Upon which the vote was:

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

Nay—Mr. Walker—1.

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 empower Charles Maltbie West, a minor of Leon county, to assume the management of his own estate;

Was read a third time and put upon its passage;

Upon which the vote was:

Yeas—Messrs. Baker, Baldwin, Call, Dawkins, Dell, Duncan;

Eppes, Hawes, Jones, Keitt, Lamar, McElvy, McQueen, Watlington and Welch—15.

Nays—None.

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 amend an Act concerning Dower; Was read the third time and put upon its passage;

Upon which the vote was:

Yeas—Mr. President, Messrs. Baker, Baldwin, Call, Dawkins, Dell, Duncan, Eppes, Hawes, Keitt, Lamar, McQueen, Nicholson and Watlington—14.

Nays—Messrs. Jones, McElvy, Walker and Welch—4.

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 for the purchase of arms for this State; Was read the first time and ordered for a second reading on Monday.

A bill to be entitled an Act for the payment of the Florida Volunteers, called into service under the requisition of the Governor of this State, for services rendered previous to their being mustered in during the years 1855-6;

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

Upon which the vote was:

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

Nays—None.

So said bill passed—titled as stated.

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

Joint Resolutions for the relief of William Newbern;

Were read and put upon their passage;

The vote was:

Yeas—Messrs. Baker, Call, Dell, Duncan, Eppes, Hawes, Keitt, McElvy, McQueen, Nicholson, Walker and Welch—12.

Nays—None.

So said resolutions passed—title as stated.

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

Mr. Baker moved that the bill for the relief of Spencer T. Thomas be referred to a select Committee of three, who shall report as soon as practicable as to said claim;

Which motion was adopted, and the President appointed Messrs. Baker, Keitt and Lamar, on said Committee.

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;

Was read the third time and put upon its passage;

The vote was:

Yea—Mr. Dawkins—1.

Nays—Messrs. Baldwin, Call, Dell, Duncan, Eppes, Hawes, Keitt, Lamar, McElvy, McQueen, Nicholson and Walker—12.

So said bill was lost.

Rules were waived and Mr. Eppes made the following report:

The Judiciary Committee to whom was referred a bill to be entitled Act to amend an Act to provide for the payment "pro rata" of the debts of Insolvent estates,

REPORT:

The following as a substitute and recommend its passage;

T. J. EPPES,

Chairman Judicial Com.

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

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;

Was read the third time and put upon its passage;

Upon which the vote was:

Yeas—Mr. President, Messrs. Baker, Baldwin, Call, Dawkins, Dell, Duncan, Eppes, Hawes, Keitt, Lamar, McElvy, McQueen and Nicholson—14.

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 create and regulate Pilotage at the Port of Bay Port, in the county of Hernando;

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—Mr. President, Messrs. Baker, Baldwin, Call, Dawkins, Dell, Duncan, Eppes, Hawes, Lamar, McElvy, McQueen, Nicholson, Walker and Watlington—15.

Nays—None.

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 repeal the 24th Section of an Act entitled an Act to provide for and encourage a liberal system of Internal Improvements in this State;

Came up on its third reading;

On motion of Mr. Call, the vote taken yesterday, on engrossing the bill for a third reading, was reconsidered.

Mr. Call then offered as a substitute

A bill to be entitled an Act to repeal in part the 24th Section of the Act entitled an Act to provide for and encourage a liberal system of Internal Improvements in this State;

Which substitute was adopted, read and put upon its passage;

Upon which the vote was:

Yeas—Mr. President, Messrs. Call, Dawkins, Eppes, Hawes, Jones, Keitt, Nicholson, Walker and Welch—10.

Nays—Messrs. Baldwin, Dell, Duncan, Lamar, McElvy and McQueen—6.

So said bill passed—titled as stated:

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

Rules being wived, Mr. Finlayson introduced without previous notice,

A bill to be entitled an Act to invest the Coupons of the Internal Improvement Bonds in lands of the Internal Improvement Fund;

Which was placed among the orders of the day.

Mr. Hawes moved that the Senate adjourn until Monday morning 10 o'clock;

On which the yeas and nays were called for by Messrs. McElvy and Walker;

Upon which the vote was:

Yeas—Mr. President, Messrs. Baldwin, Call, Hawes, Jones, Keitt, Lamar, Nicholson, Walker and Watlington—10.

Nays—Messrs. Baker, Dawkins, Dell, Duncan, McElvy, McQueen and Welch—7.

So the Senate stood adjourned until Monday morning 10 o'clock:

MONDAY, December 19th, 1859.

Senate met pursuant to adjournment.

A quorum present.

Rev. Dr. DuBose officiated as Chaplain.

On motion of Mr. Keitt, the reading of Saturday's journal was dispensed with, and the journal approved and adopted.

On motion of Mr. Call, a bill to be entitled an Act concerning Pilotage at the Port of Ferdinandina, was placed first among the orders of the day.

Mr. Dell moved that a committee of three be appointed to act with a similar committee from the House, to make out the appropriation bill up to Tuesday night the 20th inst.

Mr. Baker moved as a substitute for the motion of Mr. Dell, that a joint committee of three be appointed to meet a similar committee from the House to make out the estimates of the General Appropriation bill;

Which substitute was adopted.

Whereupon the Chair appointed Messrs. Dell, Eppes and Baker, as said committee.

A committee from the House consisting of Messrs. Ingram, Coffee and Williams of Leon, appeared and informed the Senate that they had been appointed to act with a similar committee on the part of the Senate, for the purpose of making out the appropriation bill.

Rules being waived, Mr. Jones introduced without previous notice,

A bill to be entitled an Act in relation to a ferry in Washington county;

Which was placed among the orders of the day.

Mr. Baldwin offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund be requested to inform the General Assembly what amount of money has been invested in the Bonds of the Railroad Companies respectively, and from what source said investments have been made, whether from the Internal Improvement, Seminary, School, or from any other State fund;

Which was placed among the orders of the day.

Mr. Call offered the following additional resolution:

Resolved further, That the said Trustees do further inform this Senate, by what authority any of the School and Seminary Funds were invested in any Railroad bonds, and whether the same was done by the said Trustees, or by the Governor of this State;

Which was placed among the orders of the day.

Mr. Baldwin from the Committee on Schools and Colleges made the following report: