

Was read the first time and ordered for a second reading on to-morrow.

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

—o—

TUESDAY, December 20th, 1859.

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. Call moved that inasmuch as the General Assembly will probably adjourn in the course of two or three days, the Governor of this State be respectfully requested either to furnish to the Senate at once the information asked for in the Senate resolution adopted on the 14th inst., in regard to the appointment of Henry Wells as agent, to select lands for the different Railroads, or that he notify the Senate of his intention to withhold such information.

On motion of Mr. Call, the foregoing resolution was placed among the orders of the day.

Mr. Call moved that the vote on the motion made by the Senator from Franklin to refer the resolution offered by him, (Mr. Call,) expressive of the sense of the General Assembly as to the contract with A. M. Randolph and Henry Wells for the selection and classifying of Swamp Lands to a Committee of three, be reconsidered, and said Committee discharged.

On motion of Mr. Call, the foregoing motion was placed among the orders of the day.

Mr. Call made a motion in reference to the committee of investigation about the Swamp Lands;

Which on motion was put among the orders of the day.

Mr. Call moved that the bill entitled an Act providing for filling vacancies in the Office of Register of State Lands, be placed first among the orders of the day;

Which motion was adopted.

Mr. Eppes from the Committee on Judiciary made the following report:

The Judiciary Committee to whom was referred an Act to amend the laws of this State relating to divorce,

REPORT:

They see no necessity for the passage of said Act, as the Courts already possess power to decree in the premises upon proper application. They therefore recommend that it do not pass.

T. J. EPPES,  
Chm'n Judiciary Committee.

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

Mr. Eppes from the Judiciary Committee made the following report:

The Judiciary Committee to whom was referred a bill to be entitled an Act to require Justices of the Peace to give bond,

REPORT:

They do not approve the policy of said Act and therefore recommend that the same do not pass.

The same committee to whom was referred an Act in relation to the duties of Justices of the Peace, would

REPORT:

That said bill is objectionable as providing duties, many of which are already their Statute duty, and besides, they do not approve giving Justices a per diem as provided in said bill. They therefore recommend that it do not pass.

T. J. EPPES,  
Chm'n Judiciary Committee.

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

Mr. Eppes from the Judiciary Committee made the following report:

The Judiciary Committee to whom was referred a bill to be entitled an Act to prevent fraudulent settlements on married women, beg leave to report said bill back to the Senate and recommend its passage.

And the same committee to whom was referred a bill to be entitled an Act in relation to Records would recommend its passage.

T. J. EPPES,  
Chm'n Judiciary Committee.

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

Mr. Eppes from the Judiciary committee made the following report:

The Judiciary Committee to whom was referred a bill to be entitled an Act to authorize the Supreme Court to establish rules in Chancery Practice,

REPORT :

They have carefully examined the same and recommend its passage with the following amendment :

In tenth (10th) line after the word " Courts," insert the following words : " said copies to be distributed by the several Clerks among the members of the Bar, after retaining one copy in their office."

T. J. EPPES,

Chm'n Judiciary Committee.

Which was received 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 Wm. Day and L. B. McTyer, ask leave to

REPORT :

That they have had the same under consideration, and it has been shown to the committee that said Wm. Day, Clerk, and L. B. McTyer, Sheriff, of Hamilton county, were put to some inconvenience in issuing and serving writs for the Court to be holden on the fourth Monday in November, which through a misconstruction of the law, owing to the creation of the Fifth Judicial Circuit, was to be held on the First Monday in December, and should receive some remuneration for the same ; and if said Wm. Day, Clerk, and L. B. McTyer, Sheriff, of Hamilton county, shall present to the Comptroller satisfactory evidence and vouchers, for services rendered in cases over which the State has jurisdiction, it shall then be the duty of the Comptroller to audit, and the Treasurer to pay the accounts of said Wm. Day, Clerk, and L. B. McTyer, Sheriff, of Hamilton county, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated.

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.

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 invest the coupons of the Internal Improvement Board in lands of the Internal Improvement Fund ;

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

A bill to be entitled an Act for the purchase of arms for this State ;

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

Respectfully submitted,

A. W. NICHOLSON,

Acting Chairman.

Which was received 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 bill entitled "An Act to incorporate the Jacksonville and St. Augustine Rail Road Company,"

REPORT :

That it is with deep regret that they find themselves compelled to report against the said charter, on account of the absence of the notice required by the Constitution. The proposed Rail Road is one which addresses itself to the favorable consideration of your Committee more strongly than any other which has been discussed during the Session, being as it is, a continuation of the line of Rail Roads already provided for by existing laws, and which is to run from the waters of Escambia bay to Jacksonville. The construction of the link from Jacksonville to St. Augustine is all that is wanting to connect the extreme Eastern and Western sections of our State, and to restore the Ancient city of St. Augustine to that degree of splendor and prosperity for which she was so celebrated in past days. So obvious are these results, that your Committee are only surprised that this link was not provided for in the original Internal Improvement Act, and that a movement towards the construction of this Road should have been postponed to this adjourned Session, when the Constitution prohibits the General Assembly from granting the Charter. They can only account for the seeming neglect of this Rail Road, by the fact that the enterprising city of Jacksonville, has for the last few years been devoting all her energies to the construction of the Roads to Lake City, and that it has only been within the last 12 months that her citizens have been sufficiently well assured of the speedy construction of the last named Road, to justify them

in turning their attention towards new fields of enterprise. So deeply were your Committee impressed with the importance of this Rail Road, as well as with another that has been informally been submitted to them, and to the chartering of which the same fatal objection exists, that they were unwilling to dismiss the bills without endeavoring to provide some remedy by which the necessity of postponing the commencement of the Act for another year might be avoided. They believe that they have found that remedy in the accompanying bill entitled "an Act to amend an Act to encourage and facilitate Internal Improvements, and to authorize and regulate partnerships for that purpose."

Should the bill which they now propose, become a law, those interested in the two Rail Roads therein named, can organize under the Act, and conduct their operations until the next Session of the General Assembly, when the grants of proper and liberal Charters may be relied on, without intended merit as to any matter of fact or law.

We respectfully submit the above report,  
J. McROBERT BAKER.

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

Mr. Eppes from the Judiciary Committee made the following report:

The Judiciary Committee to whom was referred a bill to be entitled an Act to provide for the consolidation of the statutes and the compilation of a code of laws for this State,

#### REPORT:

They have carefully examined said bill and fully concur in the necessity of a Digest of our laws.

Your committee however, have doubts as to the policy of adopting or "compiling a code" as provided in said act, and are admonished by the past experience of our State (then Territory) that it is almost impossible to have a "Code" so to speak, which will meet the wants and requirements of our State. The period to which your committee refers is when we were a territory, and a "Code" was drafted by one of our most distinguished lawyers, then a Judge of the United States Court, which was submitted to the Legislature and found not to answer the then wants of our people—no part of which was adopted save the laws in regard to election; and that was found so faulty that a subsequent Legislature amended, and literally repealed its provisions. Your committee would be unwilling to fasten a "Code" upon our State which could not be amended or repealed, and if made subject to correction and repeal by the differ-

ent Legislatures, it amounts to but a Digest, while more expensive in its preparation.

On the ground of its impracticability, therefore, and great additional expense, your committee are unwilling to recommend the adoption of a code as provided in said bill.

Your committee however, as above stated, fully concur in the necessity of a Digest of our laws, and finding the bill referred somewhat faulty, herewith report a substitute and recommend its passage in lieu of the original.

The substitute provides for a full and complete Digest to be made by the Attorney General, who is the official law officer of the State. It also provides for a Digest of the laws every five years.

Such a bill has the recommendation of giving the Digest of the laws to an officer who is amenable to the Legislature for the faithful discharge of his duty. And also as being in its terms prospective, and thus for the future establishing a system of Digests which the growing wants of our people require.

Besides this, your committee think this plan and system cheaper and far less expensive to the State. The original bill proposes to pay \$7,500.00; whereas, your committee think it can be done upon more reasonable terms and better for the State.

Your committee therefore, recommend the passage of the substitute herewith reported for the original bill.

T. J. EPPES,  
Ch'm. Judiciary Com.

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

Mr. Baldwin from a Select Committee made the following report:

The select committee to whom was referred a bill to be entitled an Act relative to the town of Quincy,

#### REPORT:

That they have examined the same and find it necessary to make an amendment in Section 3rd, to give meaning to the Section, by inserting after the word "premises" in the 21st line of Section 3, the words "and assess damages to the person or persons."

A. S. BALDWIN,  
Of Select Committee.

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

The following message was received from the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Dec. 19th, 1859. }

HON. JOHN FINLAYSON,

President of the Senate :

*Sir* :—The House has this day passed the following bill :

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

Very respectfully,

M. F. POPY,

Clerk House of Representatives.

Which was read and the accompanying bill ordered to be enrolled.

#### ORDERS OF THE DAY.

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

Was read a third time and put upon its passage;

Upon which the vote was :

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

Nay—Mr. Welch—1.

So said bill passed—title as stated.

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

House resolution relative to adjournment;

Was read the second time.

Mr. Call moved to amend the resolution to adjourn by striking out "Tuesday the 20th and 59 minutes past 11," and insert "Thursday, the 22nd, at 1 P. M.;"

Which motion was adopted.

Mr. Call moved that a Committee of three be appointed to wait upon the House and inform them of the amendment of the Senate to the resolution for adjournment;

Which was adopted, and

Messrs. Call, Keitt and Baldwin appointed on said Committee.

The Committee appointed from the Senate to inform the House of the amendment of the Senate, to the House resolution relative to adjournment, returned and reported that they had performed that duty, and were discharged.

House 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, December, 31st 1858;

Was read a second time, and referred to a select Committee, consisting of Messrs. Hawes, Baldwin and McQueen.

Mr. Welch moved that after to-day no new bill or resolution of a

public character, except the Appropriation bill, shall be introduced into the Senate, without the unanimous consent of the Senate;

Which motion was adopted.

The following message was received from the House of Representatives.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
December, 20th 1859. }

HON. JOHN FINLAYSON,

President of the Senate :

*Sir* :—The House has this day passed the following bill :

A bill to be entitled an Act for the relief of Susan Pearce, administratrix and James Lester administrator of William Pearce; Also

A resolution to provide for and pay the Governor of this day, for services render as President of the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund.

Very respectfully,

M. F. POPY,

Clerk House Rep.

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

House bill to be entitled an Act providing for the publication of names of certain persons, with the Acts of each and every Session of the General Assembly;

Was read a third time and put upon its passage;

The vote was :

Yeas—Mr. President, Messrs. Baldwin, Dawkins, Hawes and Nicholson—5.

Nays—Messrs. Baker, Call, Dell, Duncan, Eppes, Jones, Keitt and McQueen—8.

So said bill was lost.

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

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;

Was read the third time and put upon its passage;

Upon which the vote was :

Yeas—Mr. President, Messrs. Baker, Baldwin, Call, Dawkins, Duncan, Eppes, Hawes, Jones, Keitt, Nicholson and Welch—12.

Nay—Mr. Dell—1.

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 prevent insubordination among slaves;

Was read the second time.

Mr. Call moved to amend by inserting in Section 1st, 11th line, the words "from teaching his, her or their own slave or slaves to read or write, or any owner, trustee, guardian, executor, executrix or administrator ;"

Which amendment was accepted.

Mr. Dell moved to amend by striking out all after the enacting clause, in the first Section of the bill entitled an Act to prevent insubordination among slaves, and transpose Sec. 2 to Sec. 1, and Sec. 3 to Sec. 2, and Sec. 4 to Sec. 3 ;"

Which amendment was adopted, and the bill as amended ordered to be engrossed for a third reading on to-morrow.

A committee from the House consisting of Messrs Davidson, Bayrett and Williams of Leon, appeared and requested the return of the House resolution relative to adjournment.

On motion of Mr. Dell, the Secretary was ordered to transmit the resolution immediately to the House of Representatives.

Resolutions relative to Federal Relations ;

Was read the second time.

Mr. Call moved to amend by striking out the second resolution ;

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

Upon which the vote was :

Yeas—Messrs. Baker, Call, Nicholson and Watlington—4.

Nays—Mr. President, Messrs. Baldwin, Dawkins, Duncan, Eppes, Jones, Keitt, Lamar, McElvy and Welch—10.

So the Senate refused to strike out.

Mr. Baker offered the following substitute :

"Resolved, That at the call of any border or other Southern State, for a convention of the Slaveholding States, the Governor of the State of Florida be required to appoint suitable delegates to said Convention, who are hereby authorized to pledge this State to furnish her full contribution of money for the fortification of the necessary points on the Northern frontiers of the Slaveholding States, and the garrisoning and perpetual support of the same.

"Resolved, That while the considerations of safety and security, obvious and paramount, justify and compel such measures of defence, in view of this incendiary attempt of John Brown and the apparent state of public sentiment in the so-called free States, this Legislature does not hesitate to declare that this Union, at best of doubtful value to the South, would be scarcely an atom in the scale against the perpetual maintenance of our system of African slave labor ; and we advise that when the continuance of the said Union endangers or seriously impresses that system, that the South should discard said Union at once and forever.

"Resolved, That the Governor of the State be requested to forward a copy of these resolutions to the Governors of all the States

of this Confederacy, and to our Senators and Representative in Congress."

Mr. Keitt moved to lay the substitute on the table ;

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

Upon which the vote was :

Yeas—Mr. President, Messrs. Baldwin, Dawkins, Dell, Eppes, Jones, Keitt, Lamar, McElvy, and Welch—10.

Nays—Messrs. Baker, Call and Nicholson—3.

So said substitute was laid on the table.

Mr. Call moved to amend by striking out the words "to prevent his Inauguration, or" from the second resolution ;

Which was adopted, and the resolutions as amended, put upon their passage ;

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

Upon which the vote was :

Yeas—Mr. President, Messrs. Baker, Baldwin, Call, Dawkins, Dell, Duncan, Eppes, Jones, Keitt, Lamar, McElvy, Nicholson, Watlington and Welch—15.

Nays—None.

So said resolutions passed—titled as stated.

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

The rules being waived Mr. Dawkins introduced without previous notice, a bill to be entitled an Act to amend an Act entitled an Act to change the times for holding the Circuit Courts for the Western Judicial Circuit, approved January 5th, 1859 ;

Rules being waived, was read a first and second times, and referred to the Judiciary Committee ;

Also a bill to be entitled an Act to amend an Act entitled an Act regulating Constables sales in the counties of Washington, Holmes, Santa Rosa, Walton, Gadsden and Liberty, approved January 15th, 1859 ;

Rules being waived, was read a first and second times, by its title and ordered to be engrossed for a third reading on to-morrow.

Mr. Nicholson introduced without previous notice,

A bill to be entitled an Act to change the name of Martha Ann Barnes, to that of Mary Henrietta McClelland ;

Rules being waived, the bill was read the first second and third times by its title, and put upon its passage ;

The vote was :

Yeas—Mr. President, Messrs. Baldwin, Call, Dawkins, Dell, Duncan, Eppes, Jones, Keitt, McElvy, Nicholson, Watlington and Welch—13.

Nays—None.

So said bill passed—title as stated.

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

Mr. McElvy from the Committee on Enrolled bills made the following report :

The Committee on Enrolled Bills beg leave to report the following bills and resolution as correctly enrolled :

A bill to be entitled an Act more fully defining the duties of Tax Assessors and Collectors for the city of Pensacola ;

A bill to be entitled an Act to provide for the payment of costs by plaintiffs in certain cases in the Western Judicial Circuit ; and

Resolution to empower the Governor of the State to sell certain bonds.

Respectfully submitted,

L. G. McELVY, Chm'n.

Also the following :

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

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

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

An Act for the relief of Allen Gibson, of Marion county and Solomon F. Haliday, of Alachua county ;

Resolution to change Mail Route No 6543 ; and

Resolution for the relief of certain parties holding State Witness and Jury Scrip.

Respectfully submitted,

L. G. McELVY, Chairman.

Which were received and read.

The following message was received from the House of Representatives :

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }  
December 20th, 1859. }

HON. JOHN FINLAYSON,

President of the Senate :

Sir :—The House has this day passed the following Senate bill :

A bill to be entitled an Act to amend an Act to permit free persons, wholly or in part of African descent, to choose their own masters and become slaves, approved January 15th, 1859, with the enclosed amendments.

Very respectfully,

M. F. PAPY,  
Clk Ho. Rep's.

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

Mr. Call moved that a committee of three be appointed to inform the House that the Senate concurs in the first and third amendments to the Senate 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, and refuses to concur in the third ;

Which motion was adopted.

Whereupon the Chair appointed Messrs. Call, Lamar and Nicholson as said committee.

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

Was read the third time and put upon its passage ;

Upon which the vote was :

Yeas—Mr. President, Messrs. Baldwin, Dell, Eppes, Hawes, Jones, Keitt, Lamar, McElvy, McQueen and Welch—11.

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 amend an Act entitled an Act to establish common Schools and to repeal certain Acts in relation thereto, approved January 1st, 1853 ;

Was read the third time, and put upon its passage ;

Upon which the vote was :

Yeas—Messrs. Baker, Baldwin, Call, Dawkins, Dell, Eppes, Hawes, Jones, Keitt, Lamar, McElvy, McQueen and Welch—13.

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 incorporate the city of Jasper ;

Was read the second time.

The substitute offered by the Committee on Corporations was adopted, and the bill ordered to be engrossed for a third reading on to-morrow.

House bill to be entitled an Act in reference to common Schools in the county of Walton ;

Was read the 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, Nicholson and Welch—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 for the relief of Harrison Fairbanks;

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

The vote was :

Yeas—Mr. President, Messrs. Baker, Baldwin, Call, Dell, Eppes, Hawes, Jones Keitt, Lamar, McQueen and Nicholson—12.

Nays—Messrs. McElvy and Welch—2.

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 secure the right of way to the St. Johns and Indian River Canal, and for other purposes;

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

The vote was :

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

Nays—None.

So said bill passed—title as stated.

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

A committee from the House appeared and informed the Senate that they had been appointed to confer with a similar committee on the part of the Senate, as to the disagreement of the two Houses on 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 15, 1859.

Mr. Call moved that a Committee of three be appointed on the part of the Senate to confer with the similar Committee on the part of the House as to the disagreement of the two Houses on the African descent bill;

Which motion was adopted.

Whereupon the Chair appointed Messrs. Lamar, Call and Nicholson on said Committee.

Mr. Lamar from the committee on Internal Improvements made the following report :

MR. PRESIDENT :

Sir :—The Committee to whom was referred 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 Railroads in this State," beg leave to

## REPORT:

That they have had the same under consideration and recommend that the same do pass with an additional Section herewith submitted, to be numbered Section 4.

Respectfully submitted,

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

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

SEC. 4. *Be it further enacted*, That when lands are in controversy between different Companies, that the Company on whose line of road such lands are located shall have power to sell the same and make title to the purchaser thereof and shall account and pay over to the other Company claiming an interest therein such proportion of the proceeds as may be legally adjudged due said Company.

On motion the Senate took a recess until half-past three o'clock.

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

Senate resumed its session.

A quorum present.

The orders of the day were resumed.

A Committee from the House appeared and informed the Senate that the House had concurred in the amendments of the Senate reported by the Committee of Conference to the bill entitled an Act to amend an Act entitled an Act to permit free persons of African descent to choose their own masters and become slaves, and had passed the bill as amended.

The rules being waived, on motion of Mr. Nicholson, the bill entitled an Act granting a charter to intersect the waters of Perdido Bay and Grand Lagoon, was taken from the table and placed among the orders of the day.

The following message was received from the House of Representatives :

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }  
December, 20th 1859. }

HON. JOHN FINLAYSON,

President of the Senate :

Sir :—The House has this day passed the following resolution :

A resolution relative to Federal relations, and have rejected Senate bill to be entitled an Act to amend and Act relative to Associa-

lions to construct lines of Telegraph; approved December 27th, 1856.

Very respectfully,

M. F. PAPY.

Clerk House Rep.

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

Mr. Eppes moved to waive the rules to allow him to make a report;

On which the yeas and nays were called for by Messrs. Keitt and Eppes;

Upon which the vote was :

Yeas—Mr. President, Messrs. Baker, Baldwin, Dawkins, Duncan, Eppes, Jones, Nicholson and Welch—9.

Nays—Messrs. Call, Dell, Hawes, Keitt and Lamar—5.

So said motion was lost.

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

Was read the second time ; and,

On motion of Mr. Call was indefinitely postponed.

House bill to be entitled an Act to amend an Act entitled an Act to amend an Act to establish the ad valorem system of taxation, approved January 15th, 1859 ;

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

A bill to be entitled an Act to alter and define the line between Gadsden and Liberty counties ;

Was read the third time and placed among the orders of the day for to-morrow.

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 Railroads in this State ;

Was read the second time ;

Mr. Dawkins moved to amend section three by striking out the words "except by the consent of said last named Company ;"

Which amendment was adopted.

The question was then taken upon the adoption of the following amendment offered by the Committee on Internal Improvements :

SEC. 4. *Be it further enacted*, That when lands are in controversy between different Companies, that the Company on whose line of road such lands are located shall have power to sell the same and make title to the purchasers thereof, and shall account and pay over to the other Company claiming an interest therein, such proportion of the proceeds as may be legally adjudged due said Company ;

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

Upon which the vote was :

Yeas—Mr. President, Messrs. Call, Dawkins, Dell, Duncan, Eppes, Hawes, Jones, Lamar and McQueen—10.

Nays—Messrs. Baker and Nicholson—2.

So the amendment was adopted ; and

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

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

—o—  
WEDNESDAY, December 21st, 1859.

Senate met pursuant to adjournment.

A quorum present.

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

Mr. Baldwin moved to withdraw the bill to be entitled an Act to incorporate the Jacksonville & St. Augustine Railroad Company, which was reported on adversely by the Committee on Corporations yesterday.

Mr. Hawes moved to amend the motion of Mr. Baldwin, by adding, also a bill to be entitled an Act to incorporate the Palatka Railroad Company ;

Which amendment was accepted, and the motion adopted.

The following message from his Excellency the Governor, was received and read :

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER,  
TALLAHASSEE, Dec. 21, 1859. }

HON. JOHN FINLAYSON,

President of the Senate :

*Sir* :—I return to the Senate without the signatures of the Executive a bill which has passed the General Assembly entitled "an Act allowing two Judges of the Supreme Court to hold a Court in the absence of the third Judge." The bill is in the following words :

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Florida in General Assembly convened*, That it shall be the duty of all the Judges of the Supreme Court to attend at each term of the same, but if from providential cause any one of said Judges cannot attend a Court, such Court may be holden by two Judges ; if only one Judge shall attend a Court, it shall be his duty to open the Court and to adjourn it to a day not more than two days beyond the regular term, at which time if two Judges