

Mr. Smith moved the reading of the Message be dispensed with.
Adopted.

Mr. Abercrombie moved that two hundred copies of the Message and accompanying documents be ordered to be printed.

Adopted.

On motion, the Senator from Gadsden was excused for a few days.

Mr. Hogue moved that fifty copies of the Standing Committees be printed for the use of the Senate.

Adopted.

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

FRIDAY, November 21st.

Senate met pursuant to adjournment.

The President in the chair.

A quorum present.

The Journal of yesterday was read, corrected and approved.

The President announced motions in order.

Messrs. Tatum and West, the newly elected Engrossing and Enrolling Clerks, came forward and were sworn in.

Mr. Norwood gave notice that on some future day he would introduce

A bill to be entitled an act to repeal the 20th section of "an act entitled an act to amend and consolidate the several acts of this State in relation to patrols. Approved December the 17th, 1861"; also,

A bill to be entitled an act for the relief of soldier's families also,

A bill to be entitled an act to re-establish lost or destroyed indictments.

Mr. Holland moved that the notice asking leave to introduce a bill in relation to refusing to receive Confederate States or the Treasury Notes of the State of Florida, given by him yesterday, may so be amended as to read: A bill to be entitled an act to sustain the credit of the Confederate and State Treasury Notes.

Adopted.

A message was received from the Governor.

Mr. Hopkins moved that the message be laid over for the present, Which was adopted.

Mr. Taylor gave notice that at some future day he would ask leave to introduce the following bills:

A bill authorizing and compelling the Judges of the Supreme Court to codify the laws of the State of Florida; also,

A bill to locate the Supreme Court, and to make its sessions semiannual; also,

A bill authorizing and empowering the several Judges of the Circuit Courts to hold Courts for the transaction of criminal business at times not provided by law; also

A bill authorizing and compelling the several Judges of the Circuit Courts to digest decisions of the Supreme Court; also

A bill authorizing and empowering the several boards of County Commissioners to keep a book and record therein the names of the extortioners and speculators in their respective counties.

Mr. Arnow gave notice that on some future day he would introduce a bill for the suspension of the sale of public lands until six months after the termination of the present war.

Mr. Hogue gave notice that he would, on some future day, ask leave to introduce

A bill providing for the creation of special tribunals for the trial of felonies committed by slaves, free negroes and mulattoes; also,

A bill for the relief of Richard Saunders, sheriff of Leon County; also;

A bill to be entitled an act to provide for the repayment of moneys withdrawn from the School and Seminary Funds.

Mr. Holland gave notice that he would, on some future day, ask leave to introduce a bill to be entitled an act for the relief of purchasers of school and seminary lands, and for other purposes.

The rules were waived to allow Mr. Abercrombie to present the following bill:

A bill to be entitled an act to authorize the removal of slaves and other property from the State.

Mr. Abercrombie moved that it be read the first and second time and engrossed for a third reading t-morrow.

Adopted.

Mr. Hogue moved that the Senate proceed to elect a recording clerk.

Adopted.

Mr. Abercrombie nominated Mr. Brass.

The following was the vote:

Yeas—Mr. President, Messrs. Abercrombie, Arnow, Carter, Clary, Cooper, Hogue, Holland, Norwood, Roper, Scott, Smith and Taylor.

Nays—None.

Mr. Brass was declared elected.

Mr. Holland moved the the rules be waived to introduce a bill without further notice.

Adopted.

Mr. Holland introduced a bill to be entitled an act in relation to the qualification of Judges; also

A bill to be entitled an act for the better preservation of the books belonging to the public Libraries.

The general presentment of the Grand Jury of Hillsborough county was received, read and ordered to be spread upon the journal.
Hon. President of the Senate:

GENERAL PRESENTMENT.

The Grand Jurors of the State of Florida, empaneled and sworn for the county of Hillsborough, make this their final presentment.

We are gratified, that notwithstanding the country has been so long affected with war, which usually brings in its train contempt for law and an increase of crime, good order has prevailed throughout the county. With the exception that a few of our former fellow-citizens from the western section of our country, forgetting the duties of patriotism and recreant to those high and holy impulses which should have rallied them to the banner of their country in this season of its calamity, have basely deserted their homes and given their support and services to the vandal invader, crime has been almost unknown. We deprecate the existence of treason in our midst, but, as the guilty parties are beyond the reach of justice, we can only recommend that, when an opportunity offers, they be visited with punishment commensurate to their iniquities.

We desire to call attention to the condition of those of our gallant troops who have gone forth from this sunny land to the far off fields of Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee, to illustrate the spirit of Florida in the bloody conflict of arms. Denying themselves the pleasures and comforts of social life, and all the endearing blandishments of home, they have cheerfully assumed the toils and dangers of a soldier's joyless existence, and wherever they have met the foe have hurled carnage and terror into his ranks. The well fought fields of Williamsburg, Seven Pines, Chickahominy, Manassas and Sharpsburg must live forever in story, the deathless monuments of their fame. Many of them, the bravest and noblest of our land, have yielded their lives in willing martyrdom to liberty. In the fierce charge, in the deadly clash of closing bayonets, amid reeling squadrons and broken ranks, where death held his high carnival and whispered his summons to Eternity in every flying bullet, they have been foremost. Side by side they have struggled with the braves, and wherever the wild hurrah of triumph has smote upon the ear of the flying foe, they have shouted with the van. Shoeless and hatless, tattered and in rags, sick and famishing, they have performed miracles of valor. How shall a nation express its gratitude for such unparalleled devotion. And these brave spirits are still keeping their tireless vigil over our liberties. Shivering over the camp fire, pacing the weary round of duty, toiling in the trenches and famishing in the lonely bivouac, they are still suffering for us. Away from the warm suns and tropic breezes of their native Florida,

they are enduring all the rigors of an ungenial climate. Soon the snows and sleet, of winter must visit their unprotected heads and the frozen earth stained into crimson print of their naked feet. The Government cannot buy them comfort, and you men and women of Hillsborough must lend your utmost exertions to supply their wants. Can you be lukewarm in this holy work, when this mighty nation is bending its mightiest energies for the achievement of that great goal, our country's salvation from threatened thralldom? Forget your own comfort and contribute all you can; the least addition to a soldier's comfort may save him a pang, and the most trifling gift may invoke the thanks of a suffering patriot. Every individual can offer something, however lonely his condition, and let no one be recreant to the imperious demands of duty. He who will withhold his substance now is unworthy a place among us.

We further urge upon the citizens of this county, individually and collectively, to assist in arresting all deserters from their regiment or company that may be found within the county. Also, that the Sheriff or his deputies be vigilant in hunting up and arresting all persons of the above description and sending them back to their respective corps.

The case of James McKay, who was arraigned in this county on a charge of treason, has been before us, and we take the unusual course of mentioning him in our general presentment, in view of the fact that Mr. McKay has been so mercilessly traduced and vilified, and in order that the wrongs which have been inflicted upon him may, as much as possible, be repaired. We have examined into the facts so far as we were able, and freely express our deliberate conviction, that James McKay is as true and loyal to Florida and the Confederate States as any among us. So far as we are informed, the grounds of his accusation were unjust and untrue, and we believe that his prosecution was instigated by private malice or some not more laudable motive.

We tender our thanks to the Hon. Thomas F. King, Presiding Judge, for the urbanity and politeness which has distinguished his department towards us. We think he particularly merits the thanks of the county for holding a session of Court among so many difficulties. It is certainly highly important that evil doers should know that there is a tribunal to which they are amenable, and that the course of justice is not too tardy for the punishment of crime.

The Hon. Jos. M. Taylor, acting Solicitor, is also entitled to our thanks for the learned counsel and instructions with which he has assisted us in our labors, as well as for the agreeable character of his intercourse with us.

M. POST, Foreman.

The Senate resolved itself into secret session.
Senate resumed its session.

Mr. Arnow presented a joint resolution relating to mails.

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

Mr. Arnow introduced the following resolution :

Be it resolved by the Senate, That the Register of Public Lands be instructed to inform this body how much land was derived by the State from the United States by the ordinance of secession, and the prices thereof; and also, how much money has been received by the Receivers or salesmen of the several circuits, and how much thereof has been paid over to the Register; and also, how many acres of land have been sold by the salesman at Archer, and to whom, and the price paid per acre.

Which was adopted.

Mr. Holland introduced the following resolution :

Resolved, That the Committee on Public Lands be instructed to inquire whether any, and what action can be taken by this General Assembly to render subject to private entry the odd numbered sections of public land lying West of the Apalachicola river, within 15 miles of the proposed route of the Pensacola & Georgia Railroad,

Which was adopted.

Mr. Holland introduced the following preamble and resolution :

WHEREAS, By the evacuation of the city of Apalachicola, and the orders forbidding steamers to go to the city from the up country, there is great distress and lack of provisions in said city: AND WHEREAS, There are large numbers of soldiers' wives, children, and female relatives now in said city in a deplorable condition; therefore—

Be it resolved, That a select committee be appointed to report to this body the condition of said soldiers' families, and what measures, if any, can be taken, to relieve their necessities,

Which was agreed to, and Messrs. Holland, Abercrombie, Clary, Hopkins and Taylor appointed said committee.

Mr. Abercrombie, from the Committee on Engrossed Bills, report the following bill as correctly engrossed:

A bill to be entitled an act to amend an act concerning Wills, Letters Testamentary and Letters of Administration, and the duties of Executors, Administrators and Guardians.

JAMES ABERCROMBIE, Ch'n.

Which was placed among the orders of the day.

The select committee of three appointed by the President of the Senate to revise, alter and amend the Rules of the Senate made their report,

Which was adopted.

Mr. Roper moved that 50 copies of the Rules of the present session be printed for the use of the Senate.

Mr. Holland moved that the Secretary have the rules indexed before printed,

Which was adopted.

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STANDING RULES OF THE SENATE.

RULE 1. The President shall take the chair every day at the hour to which the Senate shall have adjourned; shall immediately call the members to order, and on the appearance of a quorum, shall cause the Journal of the preceding day to be read, unless the reading thereof shall, by unanimous consent, be dispensed with; and in case the President should not be present to take the chair at the appointed hour, the Senate shall forthwith proceed to elect a President *pro tem.*, who shall vacate the seat upon the return of the President.

2. He shall preserve order and decorum; may speak to points of order in preference to other members, rising from his seat for that purpose; and decide questions of order, subject to an appeal to the Senate by any two members; on which appeal, no member shall speak more than once, unless by leave of the Senate.

3. He shall rise to put the question, but may state it sitting.

4. No member shall speak to another, or otherwise interrupt the business of the Senate, while the Journals or public papers are being read, or pass between the President and any other member who is addressing the Senate.

5. Every member, when he speaks, shall address the Chair, standing in his place; and when he has finished, shall sit down.

6. No member shall speak more than twice in any one debate on the same subject, without leave of the Senate.

7. When two or more members shall rise at the same time, the President shall name the person entitled to proceed.

8. When a member shall be called to order, he shall sit down until the President shall determine whether he is in order or not; and every question of order shall be decided by the President without debate, but subject to an appeal to the Senate.

9. If any member shall be called to order for words spoken, the exceptional words shall be immediately taken down in writing, that the President may be better enabled to judge of the matter.

10. No member shall absent himself from the service of the Senate, without leave of the Senate; and in case a less number than a quorum shall convene, they are hereby authorized to send the Sergeant-at-arms, or any other person or persons by them authorized, for any or all absent members, as the majority of such members shall agree.

at the expense of such absent members respectively, unless such excuse for non-attendance shall be made as the Senate, when a quorum is convened, shall judge sufficient.

11. No motion shall be debated until it be seconded.

12. That no motion necessary to go on the Journal, shall be entertained by the President until the form is reduced to writing, except motions to adjourn, and motions of course, such as to read a paper, to place among the orders of the day, to read a second time, or to engross for a third reading on to-morrow, and the introducer of every bill or resolution shall furnish a written statement containing the name of the Senator, and the fact that pursuant to previous notice he introduces said bill, naming them by their titles.

13. When a question is under debate, no motion shall be received but to adjourn, to lie on the table, to postpone indefinitely, to postpone to a day certain, to amend or to commit; which several motions shall have precedence in the order in which they stand arranged; and the motion to adjourn shall always be in order, unless when a member shall be engaged in addressing the Senate, or when the Senate shall be engaged in taking a vote; and the motions to adjourn and to lie on the table shall be decided without debate.

14. If the question in debate shall contain several points, any member may have the same divided.

15. In filling up blanks, the largest sum and the longest time shall be first put.

16. When the reading of a paper is called for, and the same is objected to by any member, it shall be determined by vote of the Senate without debate.

17. When the yeas and nays shall be called for by two of the members present, every member within the bar of the Senate at the time the question was put by the President, shall, (unless, for special reasons, he be excused by the Senate,) declare openly and without debate his assent or dissent to the question. In taking the yeas and nays upon the call of the Senate, the names of the members shall be taken alphabetically.

18. On a motion made and seconded to shut the doors of the Senate, in the discussion of any business which may, in the opinion of any member, require secrecy, the President shall direct the gallery to be cleared; and during the discussion of such motion, the door shall remain shut; and no motion shall be deemed in order to admit any person or persons whatever.

19. The following order shall be observed in taking up the business of the Senate, to wit: First, Motions; Second, Petitions, Memorials and other papers, addressed either to the Senate, or to the President thereof; Third, Resolutions; Fourth, Reports of Standing Committees; Fifth, Reports of Select Committee; and Lastly, Orders of the Day.

20. When a question has been once made and decided, it shall be

in order for any member of the majority to move the reconsideration thereof; but no motion for the reconsideration of any vote shall be in order after a bill, resolution, message, report or amendment, upon which the vote was taken, shall have gone out of the possession of the Senate, announcing its decision; nor shall any motion for reconsideration be in order, unless the same shall be made within the next two days of actual session thereafter.

21. The President shall have the right to name a member of the Senate to perform the duties of the Chair; but such substitute shall not extend beyond an adjournment.

22. Before any petition, or memorial, addressed to the Senate, shall be received and read, whether the same be introduced by the President or a member, a brief statement of the contents of the petition or memorial shall verbally be made by the introducer; after which, it may be referred to a Committee.

23. One day's notice at least shall be given of an intended motion for leave to bring in a bill.

24. Every bill, resolution of a public nature, or resolution for the appropriation of the public money, shall receive three readings previously to its being passed; and the President shall give notice at each, whether it be the first, second or third, which readings shall be on three different days, unless, in case of emergency, four-fifths of the Senate may deem it expedient to dispense with the rules.

25. The first reading of a bill or resolution of a public nature, or for the appropriation of the public money, shall be for the information of the Senate, at which reading the introducer shall have the right to state the general principles of the bill or resolution, as the case may be, and the causes for introducing it; and if opposition be made to it, the question shall be, "shall the bill or resolution be rejected?" upon which question there shall be no debate. If no opposition be made, or if the question to reject be negatived, the bill or resolution shall go to a second reading without a question.

26. No bill or resolution of a public nature, requiring the appropriation of public money, shall be committed or amended until it shall have been twice read, after which it may be committed or amended.

27. When a bill or resolution of a public nature, or for the appropriation of public money, shall have been read the second time, and before both sides of the question shall have been put to the Senate upon its passage, it shall be in order for any member to move its commitment to a Committee of the whole house—that it lie on the table for its indefinite postponement—for its postponement to a day certain—for its commitment to a Standing Committee—to a Select Committee—or to amend; which motions shall have precedence in the order above stated. After a bill or resolution shall have been amended, it shall again be read as amended for the information of the Senate, before the question shall be put upon its passage.

28. Before a bill or resolution requiring three readings shall be

read the third time in the Senate, it shall be carefully engrossed, (without interlineation or erasure,) under the direction of the Secretary of the Senate, and upon this reading of the bill or resolution it shall not be committed or amended without the consent of three-fourths of the Senate.

29. It shall not be in order to amend the title of a bill or resolution until it shall have passed its second reading.

30. The title of bills, and such parts thereof only as shall be affected by proposed amendments, shall be inserted in the Journals.

31. The President of the Senate shall appoint the following Standing Committees, which shall thus be denominated :

1. Committee on the Judiciary.
2. Committee on the State of the Commonwealth.
3. Committee on Corporations.
4. Committee on Schools and Colleges.
5. Committee on Propositions and Grievances.
6. Committee on Internal Improvements.
7. Committee on Elections.
8. Committee on Finance and Public Accounts.
9. Committee on Engrossed Bills.
10. Committee on Enrolled Bills.
11. Committee on Public Lands.
12. Committee on the Executive Department.
13. Committee on Military Affairs.
14. Committee on Taxation and Revenue.
15. Committee on Confederate Relations.
16. Committee on Agriculture.

32. All confidential communications made by the Governor to the Senate, shall be by members thereof kept secret until the Senate, by their resolution, take off the injunction of secrecy.

33. All information or remarks touching or concerning the character or qualifications of any person nominated by the Governor to office shall be kept secret.

34. When acting on confidential Executive business, the Senate shall be cleared of all persons except the Secretary, Sergeant-at-Arms, Messenger and Door-Keeper.

35. The proceedings of the Senate, when not acting in Committee of the Whole, shall be entered on the Journal as concisely as possible, care being taken to detail an accurate and true account of the proceedings.

36. Messages shall be transmitted to the House of Representatives by the Secretary; upon each of which shall previously be endorsed, by the Secretary, the final determination of the Senate thereon.

37. Messengers may be introduced in any stage of the business, except while a question is being put, or while the yeas and nays are being called.

38. The Governor of the State, former Governors of the State and Territory, and former Senators and Representatives from this State to the Congress of the United States, and also Senators and members of the Confederate State Congress, State House officers, members of the Representative branch of the General Assembly and Judges of the Chancery and Circuit Courts of this State, shall be admitted to a seat within the bar of the Senate Chamber, and any other person upon the invitation of a member of the Senate.

39. The Secretary of the Senate, Sergeant-at-Arms, Messenger and Door-Keeper, shall be severally sworn by the President, well and faithfully to discharge their respective duties, and to keep secret the proceedings of the Senate when sitting with closed doors.

40. No member who was without the bar of the Senate when the question was put by the Chair, shall be permitted to vote on the question then before the Senate, without the unanimous consent of the Senate.

41. No rule herein adopted for the government of the Senate, shall be amended or suspended without the consent of four-fifths of the Senate, except rule No. 1, which shall only be suspended by the unanimous consent of the Senate.

42. That upon the adjournment of the General Assembly, the Secretary of the Senate shall be required to file in the office of the Secretary of State all papers on file with him relating to unfinished business, all original papers and Journal of the Senate; and that he be required to obtain a certificate from the Secretary of State that such has been done, and file the same with the Treasurer before receiving his compensation.

43. To give effect to these rules, the President shall command the Sergeant-at-Arms to take into custody—and if unable to do so, to summon a posse for that purpose—and confine until the Senate adjourns, any member for disorderly behaviour, interruption of the proceedings of the Senate, after being called to order, or for persistent refusal to obey the Chair in a legitimate order; but the member shall be entitled to an appeal to the Senate from the order of the Chair.

44. That the Senate shall meet at 10 o'clock A. M., and adjourn at 1½ o'clock P. M. daily, unless the orders of the day are through with sooner, when the Senate may adjourn before that time until towards the close of the session and the business before the Senate require otherwise.

Mr. Holland moved that the Governor's message be referred to the appropriate Standing Committees,
Which was adopted.

Mr. Taylor moved that the rule be waived, and the President appoint a select committee of five to act with a similar committee of the House on the boundary question, and that portion of the Governor's

message touching the boundary question be referred to said committee,

Which was adopted, and Messrs. Taylor, Russell, Smith, Hogue and Allison appointed said committee.

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

A bill to be entitled an act to amend an act concerning Wills, Letters Testamentary, and Letters of Administration, and the duties of Executors, Administrators and Guardians,

Was read the third time and put upon its passage.

The vote was :

Yeas—Messrs. Abercrombie, Arnow, Carter, Clary, Holland, Hopkins, Roper, Scott, Smith and Taylor—10.

Nays—Mr. President and Mr. Norwood—2.

So the bill passed—title as stated.

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

A bill to be entitled an act in relation to the qualification of Judges,

Was read the first and second times, and referred to the Judiciary Committee.

A bill to be entitled an act for the better preservation of the books belonging to the public libraries,

Was read first time, and, on motion of Mr. Hopkins, the rules were waived, and the bill read a second and third time, by its title, and put upon its passage, with the following result :

Yeas—Mr. President, Messrs. Hogue and Taylor—3.

Nays—Messrs. Abercrombie, Arnow, Carter, Clary, Hopkins, Norwood, Roper, Scott and Smith—9.

So the bill was lost.

On motion, Mr. Holland was excused from voting.

A bill to be entitled an act to tax cotton for the relief of soldiers' families,

Was read first time, and referred to Committee on Taxation and Revenue.

A bill to be entitled an act to allow officers of Insurance Companies to hold their offices until their successors are elected, where such elections cannot be held on account of the war,

Was read a first time.

Rule was waived, and the bill was read a second and third times by its title and put upon its passage.

The vote was :

Ayes—Mr. President, Messrs. Abercrombie, Arnow, Carter, Clary, Cooper, Hogue, Holland, Hopkins, Norwood, Roper, Scott, Smith and Taylor—14.

Nays—none.

So the bill passed—title as stated.

Ordered to be certified to the House.

The rule being waived,

Mr. Abercrombie moved that the President of the Senate be excused after to-day, until Monday next at noon,

Which was adopted.

A bill to incorporate the Apalachicola Channel Company,

Was read a first time, and placed among the orders of the day for to-morrow.

The rule being waived,

On motion of Mr. Taylor, Mr. Carter was excused from attendance on the Senate for a few days.

A bill to be entitled an act to sustain the credit of Confederate and State Treasury Notes,

Was read a first time, and the rules being waived, was read a second time by its title, and referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

On motion, 50 copies of the bill were ordered to be printed.

A resolution relative to mail route No. 65,

Was read a first time.

The rule being waived the bill was read a second time by its title, and referred to the Committee on Propositions and Grievances.

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

SATURDAY, November 22.

Senate met pursuant to adjournment.

Mr. Cooper in the chair.

A quorum present.

Journal of yesterday was read, corrected and approved.

On motion the Senate adjourned until 12 o'clock Monday.

MONDAY, November 24th, 1862.

Senate met pursuant to adjournment.

The President in the Chair.

A quorum present.

The journal of Saturday was read, corrected and approved.

The President declared motions in order.

On motion of Mr. Scott, the members present who were not sworn in were required to come forward and be qualified.