

TUESDAY, December 9th, 1862.

The Senate met pursuant to adjournment.

The President in the Chair.

A quorum present.

Rev. Dr. DuBose officiated as Chaplain.

The journal of yesterday was read, corrected and approved.

The President declared motions in order.

Mr. Holland moved that a committee be appointed to convey the resolution relative to Generals Cobb and Finegan, which passed the Senate yesterday, to the House, and request immediate action upon it.

Which was adopted.

The Chair appointed Messrs. Holland, Smith and Norwood, as said Committee.

The Committee retired, and returned and reported they had performed their duty, and were discharged.

Mr. Holland moved that the Governor's message and accompanying documents, received yesterday, be spread upon the Journal of to-day.

Which was adopted.

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER,
Tallahassee, December 8th, 1862. }

*Fellow Citizens of the Senate
and House of Representatives :*

Your attention is respectfully invited to the accompanying copy of a letter addressed by the Governors of Alabama, Georgia and Florida, to his Excellency, Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederate States.

Florida is the outpost of the defences of Georgia and Alabama. Satisfied of this fact the Governors of these States are desirous to concentrate forces in Florida for the common defence.

I have labored unceasingly for the past twelve months to have a Military Department established composed of parts of Alabama Georgia and Florida, to insure the protection of the State against invasion, which Florida alone has not the means to resist successfully. It is vitally important to the security of the property, liberty and lives of the citizens of Florida and the honor and independence of the State, that your honorable body should enact a law to authorize a suitable military force for the State.

Florida has nobly done her part towards the achievement of the independence of the Confederate States. She has supplied forces far exceeding the requisition made by the Confederate Government.

Herewith is also submitted to your proud consideration a statement of the number of her troops which has been mustered into

the Confederate service, and it will make known also, how many of these troops have left the State to meet the enemy—far distant from Florida and from their wives, children and friends—to fight side by side with troops from the other Confederate States. Upon many battle-fields the soldiers from Florida have commanded the admiration and love of their comrades in arms and the high consideration and praise of his Excellency, the President of the Confederate States, himself of world-wide renown for his own skill and gallantry as a soldier. Florida may well be proud that his Excellency attests that “the part borne by the Florida troops in our struggle for independence is well justified by the patriotic ardor and gallantry which they have displayed whenever they have met the enemy, and cannot fail to stimulate others to emulate their noble deeds.” The evidence of this praise is herewith submitted.

Is it not a sacred duty, that Florida should by all means at her command, protect from the vile purposes of the enemy, the parents, wives, children, and helpless brothers and sisters of our brave soldiers who are absent?

Without the enactment of a suitable law by your honorable body, it cannot be done.

Is it not desirable to procure arms and ammunition in our State and to save our citizens from being forced as conscripts into a camp of instruction, and from thence to be ordered from the State? It cannot be done unless your honorable body shall authorize by a suitable law, the military organization of all in the State capable of bearing arms.

I have the assurance, that military forces properly organized, will be accepted in Confederate service, armed and supplied with ammunition and retained in the State for local defence—and that arms and ammunition shall be supplied to all the forces which can be raised in the State. Hence I have urged and again urge that those between the ages of 16 and 18, and 45 and 60, should be enrolled in order that they may be armed and equipped—not to be a part of the militia in service, but to act as minute men as the public safety may require, to suppress any attempt at insurrection, on the part of the slaves, and if need be aid in the removal of the families and property of our absent soldiers beyond the reach of the enemy.

In conclusion permit me to assure your honorable body, that I have much reason to believe that by the prompt co-operation of Florida with Alabama and Georgia to raise forces in the Military Department alluded to, ample forces will be provided for the protection of every part of the State not occupied by the enemy, and eventually to drive the enemy from every portion of the State.

Very Respectfully,

JOHN MILTON.

[COPY.]

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
Montgomery, Ala., Nov. 4th, 1862.

His Excellency, JEFFERSON DAVIS,

President of the Confederate States :

SIR—We, the Governors of Alabama, Georgia and Florida, most respectfully unite in the request that you will order the formation of a new Military Department, to be composed of the counties of Henry, Dale, Barbour, Russell, Covington, Coffee and Pike, in Alabama; of the counties of Decatur, Thomas, Miller, Early, Baker, Clay, Calhoun, Randolph, Quitman, Stewart, Muscogee, Chattahoochee, Mitchell and Dougherty, in Georgia; and of the counties of Leon, Gadsden, Wakulla, Jefferson, Madison, Liberty, Washington, Jackson, Calhoun and Franklin, in Florida.

Thoroughly acquainted as we are with the geography and resources of our respective States, and with the present military organizations in them, we feel strongly the necessity of this new department.

It is almost impossible for General Forney, engaged as he is and must be in watching the movements of the enemy before Mobile, to give the proper attention to these counties in his Department, lying on the Chattahoochee river, two hundred miles to the East of him and unconnected by railroad or telegraph; and it is equally impossible for Gen. Finegan, while contending with the enemy in East and South Florida, to give the needed protection to the counties of Middle Florida, about the same distance to the West of him. We do not wish to reflect a shadow of censure on either of those Generals, but only to state that neither can do full justice to one portion of his Department, as at present constituted, without neglecting another.

We would briefly call your Excellency's attention to the fact that the new Department we propose is in imminent danger of being overrun by the enemy very soon, he being induced thereto by its defenceless condition, and its vast wealth in cotton, slaves, cattle, hogs, corn, &c., and embracing, as it does, the important city of Columbus, Georgia, and the Capital of Florida, besides an extensive seaboard, along which thousands of citizens of our respective States are now engaged in making salt for the use of themselves and neighbors, hundreds of miles in the interior.

We know the embarrassments of the Government in regard to troops and arms, and the previous actions of our States show that we would be the last to add to them. To supply troops for the Department now proposed, we respectfully suggest that we be authorized by your Excellency to call for six months volun-

teers, or for such other term as you may suggest, (the shorter the term the more speedily we can raise them, and the danger is pressing.) from amongst those not subject to conscription and those subject to conscription between 35 and 45 years; each regiment to elect its own officers under its State laws, and be commanded by a Brigadier to be appointed by yourself.

We have the honor to be,

Most respectfully, your obd't svt's,

JOHN GILL SHORTER,
Governor of Alabama.

JOSEPH E. BROWN,
Governor of Georgia.

JOHN MILTON,
Governor of Florida.

(COPY.)

RICHMOND, September 10th, 1862.

His Excellency JOHN MILTON,

Governor of Florida:

SIR: Your letter enclosing a copy of a communication addressed by you to the Senators and Representatives of your State in Congress, reached me in due course.

I fully appreciate the gravity of the situation to which you refer, and realize the necessity for prompt and effective action. I see no objection to the plan you propose so far, that those not subject to enrolment may be organized for local defence, and I shall gladly give you all practicable aid in attaining your purpose.

Permit me to avail myself of this occasion to offer you my sincere thanks for your zealous and efficient support in the present trying emergency.

Your reference to the part borne by the Florida troops in our struggle for independence, is well justified by the patriotic ardor and gallantry which they have displayed whenever they have met the enemy, and cannot fail to stimulate others to emulate their noble deeds, and follow the good advice which your address contains.

Very truly and respectfully,

Yours, &c.,

JEFFERSON DAVIS.

Mr. Arnow offered, without further notice, the following bill:

A bill to be entitled an act relative to the trial of slaves in this State during the existing war.

Which was placed among the orders of the day.

Mr. Hogue offered, without previous notice, the following resolution:
Resolution relative to the boundary line,

Which was placed among the orders of the day.

Mr. Cooper, from the Committee on Engrossed Bills, reported the following bills as correctly engrossed, viz.:

A bill to be entitled an act to create special tribunals for the trial of felonies, made capital by law, committed by slaves, free negroes and mulattoes; also,

A bill to be entitled an act to protect the interest of stock owners in this State.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JAMES G. COOPER, Chairman.

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

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

Resolution requesting the Governor to issue his proclamation relative to the boundary line between Georgia and Florida,

Was read the second time, and passed over informally.

Resolution relative to Hospital at Richmond, Va.,

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

The vote was:

Yeas—Mr. President, Messrs. Allison, Arnow, Carter, Clary, Cooper, Hogue, Holland, Hopkins, King, Norwood, Roper, Russell of Jefferson, Russell of 17th District, Scott and Smith—16.

Nays—None.

So the resolution passed—title as stated.

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

Resolution relative to the Boundary Line,

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

A bill to be entitled an act relating to the trial of slaves in this State during the existing war,

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

A bill to be entitled an act to create special tribunals for the trial of felonies committed by slaves, free negroes and mulattoes,

Was read a third time and placed upon its passage.

The vote was:

Yeas—Mr. President, Messrs. Allison, Arnow, Carter, Clary, Cooper, Hogue, Holland, King, Roper, Russell of Jefferson, Russell of 17th District, Scott, Smith and Taylor—15.

Nays—Messrs. Hopkins and 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 to protect the interests of stock owners in this State,

Was read the third time and put upon its passage.

The vote was :

Yeas—Mr. President, Messrs. Allison, Arnow, Carter, Cooper, Hopkins, King, Norwood, Roper, Russell of Jefferson, Russell of 17th District, Scott and Smith—13.

Nays—Messrs. Hogue, Holland and Taylor—3.

So the bill passed—title as stated.

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

House bill to be entitled an act to regulate trade and intercourse with the Indians,

Was read the third time and passed over informally.

A Committee from the House appeared at the bar of the Senate, and returned the bill for the relief of settlers under the acts of Congress for the armed occupation of a part of Florida, as requested by the Senate.

The following communication was received from the House of Representatives :

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
December 9th, 1862. }

HON. E. J. VANN,

President of the Senate :

SIR : The House has adopted Senate joint resolutions relative to Brigadier Generals Cobb and Finegan.

Very respectfully,

THOMAS B. BAREFOOT,
Clerk House Representatives.

Which was read.

The Chair appointed as the Committee on the part of the Senate, required by the above resolution, Messrs. Holland, Allison and Russell, of Jefferson.

The following communication from his Excellency the Governor was received :

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, }
Tallahassee, Dec. 9th, 1862. }

HON. E. J. VANN,

President of the Senate :

SIR : I hereby nominate the following persons as members of the Boards of Education, viz :

For the Seminary East of the Suwannee :

James E. Broome, James B. Owens, S. M. G. Gary, John Ramage, John Helverston and John M. Taylor.

For the Seminary West of the Suwannee:

Francis Eppes, Thomas Randall, John E. DuBose, Richard A. Shinc, Charles G. English and Selim W. Myers.

Very respectfully,

JOHN MILTON.

Which was read, and the nominations concurred in.

Mr. Taylor, from the Committee on Enrolled Bills, made the following report:

The Committee on Enrolled Bills, begs leave to report the following resolution as correctly enrolled, viz:

Resolution authorizing the Governor to employ a messenger.

JOSEPH M. TAYLOR, Chairman.

Which was read.

House bill to be entitled an act to authorize the Commissioners of the several counties in this State to levy an extra tax for the purpose of purchasing clothing for the soldiers of this State.

Was read the third time and put upon its passage.

The vote was:

Yeas—Mr. President, Messrs. Carter, Hogue and Russell of 17th District—4.

Nays—Messrs. Arnow, Clary, Cooper, Hopkins, King, Roper, Scott, Smith and Taylor—9.

So the bill was lost.

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

House bill to be entitled an act to facilitate the construction of public defences.

Was read the second time.

Mr. Hopkins offered an amendment.

Which was adopted.

On motion, the bill was passed over informally.

House bill to be entitled an act in relation to the issue of patents to lands entered in this State prior to the date of secession of the State of Florida.

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

House bill to be entitled an act to carry into effect the 18th section of the 3d article of the Constitution of this State relative to vacancy of the office of Governor.

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

House bill to be entitled an act to provide for the location of lands in lieu of cancelled land warrant locations.

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

The Committee appointed on the part of the Senate to meet a similar Committee on the part of the House, to invite Brigadier

Generals Cobb and Finegan to be present at a meeting of the Joint General Assembly, returned and reported they had performed their duty, and were discharged.

House resolution relative to small pox,

Was read the second time, and passed over informally.

House resolution relative to persons holding office in the State of Florida, under the Confederate Government, subject to the Conscript Act,

Was read the second time, and passed over informally.

A Committee from the House appeared at the bar of the Senate, and stated that the House was ready to meet the Senate in Joint Assembly, as required by resolution, and that the House had passed a resolution inviting his Excellency the Governor to be present.

On motion of Mr. Holland, the Chair appointed a committee, consisting of Messrs. Holland, Allison and Russell of Jefferson, on the part of the Senate, to extend an invitation to his Excellency the Governor, to be present.

The Committee retired, and returned and reported they had performed their duty, and were discharged.

On motion of Mr. Holland, the Senate repaired to the hall of the House of Representatives.

On the arrival of the Senate in the hall of the House, the General Assembly went into Joint Session, Hon. E. J. Vann, President of the Senate, in the Chair.

After a few moments session, the Joint Committee appeared at the bar of the House, and presented Brigadier Generals Cobb and Finegan.

The Chair welcomed Gen. Cobb in a pertinent and appropriate address, which was responded to in an eloquent and patriotic manner, by the distinguished guest.

The Joint Assembly was then addressed briefly by Gen. Finegan, after which the General Assembly adjourned.

The Senate then repaired to their Chamber, and was called to order by the President.

On motion of Mr. Norwood, the Senate took a recess until 3 o'clock, p. m.

3 O'CLOCK, P. M.

The Senate resumed its session.

The President in the Chair.

A quorum present.

The unfinished business of this morning was taken up.

House resolution relative to adjournment, which was made the special order for 3 o'clock to-day.

Was read the third time, and postponed until 10 o'clock to-morrow morning.

House bill to be entitled an act to regulate trade and intercourse with the Indians,

Was read a third time and put upon its passage.

The vote was :

Yeas—Mr. President, Messrs. Arnow, Carter, Cooper, Hogue, Holland, Hopkins, King, Norwood, Roper, Russell of Jefferson, Russell of 17th District, Scott, Smith and Taylor—15.

Nays—Messrs. Allison and Clary—2.

So the bill passed—title as stated.

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

House resolution relative to seals for the Judges of Probate of the counties of Levy and Sumter,

Was read the second time.

Mr. Holland moved to amend the resolution and title by inserting after the word "Sumter," "and all other counties requiring seals,"

Which was adopted.

On motion, the rule was waived, and the resolution read the third time by its title and put upon its passage.

The vote was :

Yeas—Mr. President, Messrs. Allison, Arnow, Carter, Clary, Cooper, Hogue, Holland, Hopkins, King, Norwood, Roper, Russell of Jefferson, Russell of 17th District, Scott, Smith and Taylor—17.

Nays—None.

So the resolution passed as amended.

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

House resolution relative to the Apalachicola Channel Company,

Was read the second time, rule waived, read the third time by its title, and put upon its passage.

The vote was :

Yeas—Messrs. Arnow, Carter, Clary, Cooper, Hogue, Holland, Hopkins, King, Roper, Scott and Smith—11.

Nays—Mr. President, Messrs. Allison, Norwood, Russell of Jefferson, Russell of 17th District, and Taylor—6.

So the resolution passed—title as stated.

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

On motion, Messrs. Allison and Norwood were added to the Committee on Finance and Public Accounts.

Mr. Taylor moved that a Committee be appointed to convey to the House the bill to be entitled an act to regulate trade and intercourse with the Indians, which had passed the Senate,

Which was adopted.

The Chair appointed as said Committee Messrs. Taylor, Carter and Arnow.

The committee retired and returned and reported they had performed their duty and were discharged.

On motion, of Mr. Smith, the action on the House resolution relative to adjournment, was reconsidered.

The resolution was read.

Mr. Hogue moved to amend said resolution by striking out all after the words "*sine die*," and insert "Tuesday next, the 16th inst.,"

Which was adopted.

The resolution was then placed upon its passage.

The vote was:

Yeas—Mr. President, Messrs. Allison, Arnow, Cooper, Hogue, Holland, Russell of Jefferson, Russell of 17th District and Taylor—9.

Nays—Messrs. Carter, Clary, Hopkins, King, Norwood, Roper, Scott and Smith—8.

So the resolution, as amended, passed.

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

On motion, Mr. Smith was added to the Committee on Finance and Public Accounts.

The following message was received from his Excellency the Governor:

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, }
Tallahassee, Dec. 9, 1862. }

HON. E. J. VANN,

President of the Senate:

SIR: I have approved and signed the following resolution, viz:
Resolution authorizing the Governor to employ a messenger.

Very respectfully,

JOHN MILTON,

Which was read.

The following communication was received from the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
December 9th, 1862. }

HON. E. J. VANN,

President of the Senate—

SIR: The House has this day passed the following bill and resolutions, viz:

Senate bill to be entitled an act for the relief of the widow of Gen. Benjamin Hopkins and others;

Senate resolution in relation to deceased soldiers;

House resolution in relation to the present war; also,

House joint resolution to increase the pay of the officers of the General Assembly.

Respectfully,

THOS. B. BAREFOOT,

Clerk of the House of Representatives.

Which was read, and House resolutions placed among the orders of the day, and Senate bill and resolution ordered to be enrolled.

House resolution to increase the pay of the officers of the General Assembly,

Was read the first time, rule waived, and read the second time by its title.

Mr. Hopkins moved to postpone the resolution indefinitely.

The yeas and nays being called for by Messrs. Hopkins and Cooper,

The vote was:

Yeas—Mr. President, Messrs. Allison, Arnow, Carter, Clyra, Cooper, Holland, Hopkins, King, Roper, Scott and Taylor—12.

Nays—Messrs. Hogue, Norwood, Russell of Jefferson, Russell of 17th District, and Smith—5.

So the resolution was indefinitely postponed.

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

House resolution in relation to the present war,

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

The vote was:

Yeas—Mr. President, Messrs. Allison, Arnow, Carter Clary, Cooper, Hogue, Holland, Hopkins, King, Roper, Russell of Jefferson, Russell of 17th District, Scott, Smith and Taylor—16.

Nay—Mr. Norwood—1.

So the resolution passed—title as stated.

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

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

WEDNESDAY, December 10th, 1862.

Senate met pursuant to adjournment.

The President in the chair.

A quorum present.

The Rev. Dr. DuBose officiated as Chaplain.

The journal of yesterday was read, corrected and approved.

The President declared motions in order.

Mr. Russell of Jefferson, moved that a committee be appointed to request the House to return the bill to authorize the Commissioners of the several counties in this State to levy an extra tax for the purpose of purchasing clothing for the soldiers of this State,

Which was adopted.