

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

House Resolution relating to tax in kind,

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

The vote was:

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

Nay—Mr. Russell—1.

So the Resolution passed—title as stated.

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

The orders of the day being through with, on motion, the Senate adjourned until 10 o'clock to-morrow morning.

WEDNESDAY, November 25th, 1863.

The Senate met pursuant to adjournment.

The President in the chair.

The roll being called, the following Senators answered to their names:

Mr. President, Messrs. Abercrombie, Arnow, Cater, Clary, Cooper, Hogue, Holland, Jones, King, Norwood, Roper, Russell of Jefferson, Russell of 17th District, Scott, Smith and Taylor—17.

A quorum present.

Prayer by Rev. Mr. Smith.

The journal of yesterday was read, corrected and approved.

The President declared motions in order.

Mr. Jones moved that Mr. Frier, Messenger of the Senate, be excused from attendance on the Senate to-day, on account of sickness;

Which was adopted.

On motion, the rule was waived, to allow Mr. Smith to present without previous notice, the following bill:

A bill to be entitled an act to aid the Confederate Government in the detection of fraud;

Which was placed among the orders of the day.

Mr. Taylor moved that 200 copies of the Governor's Special Message and accompanying documents, be printed for the use of the General Assembly;

Which was adopted.

Mr. Russell gave notice, that he would, on to-morrow, introduce the following bill:

A bill to be entitled an act for the purpose of forming a Police Regulation for the county of Jefferson.

On motion, the rule was waived, to allow Mr. Abercrombie to present, without previous notice, the following bill:

A bill to be entitled an act amending the charter of the City of Pensacola, so as to authorize said city to aid in the construction of certain railroads;

Which was placed among the orders of the day.

On motion of Mr. Arnow, the rule was waived, to allow him to introduce, without previous notice, the following bills:

A bill to be entitled an act in relation to defaulting jurors; and,

A bill to be entitled an act to tax the sale of liquors, for the education of deceased soldiers' families;

Which were placed among the orders of the day.

Mr. Norwood moved that the Senate reconsider its action, had on Monday last, upon the House amendment to Senate bill to be entitled an act to authorize the Judges of the Circuit Courts of this State, to appoint Sheriffs in certain cases;

Which was adopted.

Mr. Norwood moved that the Senate concur in the House amendment to said bill;

Which was adopted.

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

A bill to be entitled an act to amend an act to prevent the entry of lands occupied by soldiers or their families during the continuance of the present war, and also to regulate the entry and sales of public lands approved December 13th, 1862;

A resolution for the relief of the Justices of the Peace in this State; also,

A bill to be entitled an act to amend the second section of an act entitled an act to prevent the entry of lands occupied by soldiers or their families during the continuance of the present war, and also to regulate the sale and entry of public lands.

JAMES ABERCROMBIE, Chairman.

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

Mr. Arnow, from the Committee on Public Lands, made the following report:

The Committee on Public Lands have had under consideration a bill to be entitled an act to legalize entries of public lands made after the secession of Florida, and requiring the Receiver to account for the moneys received therefor, and recommend the passage of the same.

J. M. ARNOW, Chairman.

Which was read and the bill placed among the orders of the day. Also the following:

The Committee on Enrolled Bills have examined an act to authorize publication to be made out of the State, of sales by administrators and executors in certain cases, and find said bill correctly enrolled.

J. M. ARNOW, Chairman.

Which was read.

Mr. Hogue, from the Judiciary Committee, made the following report:

The Judiciary Committee to whom was referred the bill entitled an act more particularly defining the duties of Tax Assessors and Collectors in this State, together with amendment, beg leave to report that they have had the same under consideration, and recommend the passage of the same with amendment proposed.

D. P. HOGUE, Chairman.

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

Also the following:

The Committee on the Judiciary to whom was referred an act relating to property confiscated to the use of the State, passed by the House of Representatives, beg leave to report the same back to the Senate and recommend its passage with the following additional section, viz:

SECTION 7. *Be it further enacted*, That the Attorney General be and he is hereby required to give the notice, by publication, provided for by the fourth section of this act.

D. P. HOGUE, Chairman.

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

Also the following:

The Committee on the Judiciary have had under consideration a bill to be entitled an act to repeal so much of the act entitled "an act to amend the election laws of this State, as regards the mode of voting, and for other purposes, approved December 8, 1862," as require the ballots to be numbered, and recommend its passage.

D. P. HOGUE, Chairman.

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

Also the following:

The Committee on the Judiciary, to whom was referred the petition of certain Citizens of Madison County, asking that an act be passed for the relief of Rufus Dickerson, have given the subject due consideration, and

REPORT:

It appears that a negro man, the property of said Dickerson, was tried and convicted for the commission of a most shocking crime, and was executed. There is no law of the State providing for compensation to the owner in such cases, and, in the opinion of the committee, there should not be.

The late Convention passed an Ordinance allowing one half the value of a slave convicted and executed to the owner, but that body in its wisdom afterwards repealed that portion of said Ordinance.—It must be taken then as the expression of the opinion of the Convention as it is of this Committee, that no such policy should be adopted by the State. The Committee thereupon recommended that the prayer of the petitioners should not be granted.

Respectfully,

D. P. HOGUE,
Chairman.

Which was read.

Mr. Russell, of the 17th District, from the Committee on Corporations, to whom was referred a bill to be entitled an act to incorporate the Apalachicola Channel Company, beg leave to report:

That they have had the same under advisement, and find that the notice required by law has been given, and the sum of one hundred dollars paid into the Treasury of the State; they therefore recommend the passage of the bill.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

THOS. T. RUSSELL, Chairman.

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

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

Mr. Hogue moved to take up first the House bill relating to property confiscated in this State;

Which was adopted.

A bill to be entitled an act relating to property confiscated to the use of the State,

Was read a second time.

Mr. Holland presented the following amendment:

SECTION 7. *Be it further enacted*, That the Attorney General be and he is hereby required to give the notice by publication, provided for by the 4th section of this act.

SEC. 8. *Be it further enacted*, That whenever the State of Florida, has a claim or demand against such person, other than the claim derived from the judgment of confiscation, or any citizen thereof, has any claim, whether liquidated or unliquidated, the Court shall hear and determine the same at Chambers on petition, and give a decree thereon, to be paid out of said confiscated property, before the heirs shall take as aforesaid.

On motion, the rule was waived, and the bill as amended, read a third time by its title and put upon its passage.

The vote was:

Yeas—Mr. President, Messrs. Abercrombie, Arnow, Carter, Cater, Clary, Cooper, Hogue, Holland, Hopkins, Jones, King, Norwood,

Roper, Russell of Jefferson, Russell of the 17th District, Scott, Smith and Taylor—19.

Nays—None.

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 incorporate the Apalachicola Channel Company,

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

The vote was:

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

Nays—None.

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 repeal so much of the act entitled an act to amend the election laws of this State as regards the mode of voting and for other purposes, approved Dec. 8, 1862, as requires the ballots to be numbered;

Which was read a second time, rule waived, and read a third time by its title.

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

On motion, the bill was recommended to the Committee on the Judiciary.

A bill to be entitled an act more particularly defining the duties of Tax Assessors and Collectors in this State,

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

A bill to be entitled an act in relation to holding Probate Court in Santa Rosa county,

Was read the first time.

Mr. Holland presented the following amendment:

SECTION 3. *Be it further enacted*, That whenever the county site of any county in this State is in danger on account of the presence of the enemy, or on account of there being no military force sufficient to protect the same, it shall be lawful for the Judges of the Probate of the county, where such county site is in danger, to hold his court and remove the records to any place in the county, or in an adjacent county, which may be the most convenient and safe, upon giving public notice by posting in three public places in the county, or in some newspaper in this State;

Which was adopted.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading to-morrow.

A bill to be entitled an act in relation to county officers in this State,

Was read a second time and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

A bill to be entitled an act to amend an act entitled an act to amend the act of 1851, providing for the establishment of two Seminaries of Learning, approved Feb. 14, 1861;

Was read a second time and referred to the Military Committee.

A bill to be entitled an act to incorporate the Monticello and Northern Railroad,

Was read a second time and referred to a Select Committee of three.

The Chair appointed as said committee Messrs. Russell, of Jefferson, Cooper and Abercrombie.

A bill to be entitled an act to amend the charter of the city of Pensacola so as to authorize said city to aid in the construction of certain railroads,

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

The vote was:

Yeas—Mr. President, Messrs. Abercrombie, Arnow, Carter, Cater, Clary, Cooper, Holland, Hopkins, Jones, King, Norwood, Russell of Jefferson, Russell of the 17th District, Scott, Smith and Taylor—17.

Nays—None.

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 tax the sale of liquors for the education of soldiers children,

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

A bill to be entitled an act to aid the Confederate Government in the detection of fraud,

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

A bill to be entitled an act to amend the second section of the act to prevent the entry of lands occupied by soldiers or their families, during the continuance of the present war, and to regulate the sale and entry of public lands,

Was read the third time and put upon its passage.

The vote was:

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

Nays—Messrs. Clary, Norwood, and Taylor—3.

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 authorizing the County Commissioners of Leon county to assess additional taxes for the support of soldiers' families and the indigent of said county, and regulating the collection thereof,

Was read the second time, and, on motion, passed over informally for the present

A bill to be entitled an act relative to claims placed in the hands of District Solicitors in this State,

Was read the second time.

Mr. Holland presented the following amendment:

Strike out the fourth section, and add the following:

Be it further enacted, That the Solicitors of this State shall receive an annual salary of twelve hundred dollars per year;

Pending the discussion of which, on motion, the Senate took a recess until 3 o'clock.

3 O'CLOCK, P. M.

The Senate resumed its session.

The President in the Chair.

The roll having been called, the following members answered to their names:

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

A quorum present.

On motion, the rule was waived to allow Mr. Norwood to move that Mr. Carter be excused from attendance on the Senate this afternoon;

Which was adopted.

On motion, Mr. Holland was excused from acting on the Committee on Elections.

The President appointed Mr. Abercrombie in place of Mr. Holland, on said committee.

The orders of the day were resumed.

The question being on the adoption of the amendment to the bill relative to claims placed in the hands of District Solicitors of this State;

On motion, the amendment was not adopted.

Mr. Russell, of Jefferson, moved to insert "five per cent." instead of "ten per cent."

The yeas and nays being called for by Messrs. Holland and Arnow on the adoption of the amendment,

The vote was:

Yeas—Messrs. Roper and Smith—2.

Nays—Mr. President, Messrs. Abercrombie, Arnow, Cater, Clary, Hogue, Holland, Hopkins, Jones, King, Norwood, Scott and Smith—13.

So the amendment was lost.

Mr. Taylor moved to strike out "ten" and insert "twenty-five;" which was not adopted.

On motion, the rule was waived, and the bill read a third time by its title and placed upon its passage;

The vote was:

Yeas—Mr. President, Messrs. Arnow, Clary, Cooper, Hogue, Hopkins, Jones, King, Norwood, Roper, Russell of 17th District, Scott and Smith—13

Nays—Messrs. Abercrombie, Cater, Holland and Taylor—4.

So the bill passed—title as stated.

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

On motion, the rule was waived, to allow the Committee on Military Affairs to make the following report:

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred Senate bill entitled an act for the organization of the Militia, have instructed me to return the same to the Senate, and they recommend that the same do not pass.

Respectfully submitted,

D. P. HOLLAND, Chairman.

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

A bill to be entitled an act to amend an act in relation to the assessment of taxes,

Was read the first time, rule waived, read the second time by its title, and referred to the Committee on Taxation and Revenue.

A bill to be entitled an act to amend an act to prevent the entry of lands occupied by soldiers or their families during the continuance of the present war, and to regulate the entry and sale of public lands, approved Dec. 13, 1862,

Was read the second time, and, on motion, passed over informally for the present.

A bill to be entitled an act for the relief of Wm. F. Russell,

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

A bill to be entitled an act in relation to defaulting jurors,

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

Resolution for the relief of Justices of the Peace in this State,

Was read the third time and put upon its passage;

The vote was:

Yeas – Mr. President, Messrs Abercrombie, Clary, Holland, Hopkins, Jones and Norwood – 7.

Nays – Messrs. Arnow, Cater, Cooper, Hogue, King, Roper, Russell, of 17th District, Scott, Smith and Taylor – 10.

So the resolution was lost.

A bill to be entitled an act for the organization of the militia,
Was read the second time.

Mr. Holland presented the following as a substitute:

A bill to be entitled an act to organize militia of Florida;

Mr. Russell, of 17th District, moved that the further reading of the bill be dispensed with;

Which was adopted.

Mr. Holland moved that the Senate go into a Committee of the Whole on both bills;

Which was adopted.

After a session of a few minutes, the committee arose and reported the bills back to the Senate, with progress.

On motion of Mr. Hopkins, the bill and substitute, was referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

The following communication was received from his Excellency; the Governor:

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER)
Tallahassee, Nov. 25th, 1863.}

Hon. E.J. Vann,
President of the Senate:

Sir: I have approved and signed the following bill, viz:

An act authorizing publication to be made out of the State of sales by administrators and executors in certain cases.

Respectfully,

JOHN MILTON
Governor of Florida.

Which was read.

The following communication was received from the House of Representatives.

House of Representatives)
November 25th, 1863.}

Hon. E.J. Vann,
President of the Senate:

Sir: The House has this day passed the following House bills to wit:

A bill to be entitled an act to prevent and punish all persons planting and cultivating in the State of Florida over a certain quantity of land in Cotton and Tobacco during the continuing of the present War;

A bill to be entitled an act to raise the salaries of the State Treasurer and other officers therein named;

A bill to be entitled an act to provide for the payment of certain claims against the Sate;

A bill to be entitled an act to authorize Banks in this Sate to issue change bills, also:

House Resolution relating to the Civil Authority of the State of Florida.

Respectfully,

THOS. B. BAREFOOT

Clerk House of Representatives.

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

House bill to be entitled an act to prevent and punish all persons, planting and cultivating in the State of Florida, over a certain quantity of land in cotton and tobacco, during the continuance of the present war,

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

Mr. Holland presented the following amendment:

Section 1. Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert. That from and after the passage of this act, there shall be levied, assessed and collected, a tax of 80 per cent. Upon all cotton planted, raised or made from and after the passage of this act, and said cotton shall be assessed at its value in Confederate or State treasury notes at the time of assessment; Provided, however, there shall be exempt from said tax five hundred pounds of ginned short staple cotton, or one hundred and seventy-five pounds of ginned Sea Island cotton to the hand, or slave owned or employed by such cotton planter or person between the ages of fifteen and sixty, and when all said persons may own or employ hands over sixty and under seventy, and over nine and under fifteen years of age, two of said hands or slaves shall be counted as one hand. And said assessment shall be given in under oath, commencing on the second Monday in December, A. D. one thousand eight hundred and sixty-four, and annually thereafter during the present war; and said tax shall be collected in the same manner as the State tax is now collected.

The yeas and nays being called for by Messrs. Holland and Norwood, on adoption of the amendment,

The vote was:

Yeas – Mr. President, Messrs. Abercrombie, Cater, Clary, Cooper,

Hogue, Holland, Hopkins, Jones, King, Norwood, Roper and Smith—13.

Nays—Messrs. Arnow, Russell of Jefferson, Russell of 17th District Scott and Taylor—5.

So the amendment was adopted.

Mr. Holland presented the following amendment :

Sec. 2. *Be it further enacted*, That all Cotton which is now in the State of Florida, raised or made during the present year, shall be taxed per cent. on the value thereof in Confederate or State Treasury Notes, provided that each planter or producer shall be exempt from said tax to the amount pounds of short staple Cotton, and pounds of Sea Island Cotton to the hand or slave owned or employed by him, between the ages of 15 and 60 years, and where the hand is below 15, or above 60 years, two hands shall of these ages, be estimated as one hand.

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

THURSDAY, November 26th, 1863.

The Senate met pursuant to adjournment.

The President in the chair.

The roll being called, the following Senators answered to their names :

Mr. President, Messrs. Abercrombie, Arnow, Carter, Cater, Clary, Cooper, Hogue, Hopkins, Jones, King, Norwood, Russell of 17th District, Scott and Smith—15.

A quorum present.

Prayer by Rev. Mr. Smith.

The journal of yesterday was read and approved.

The President declared motions in order.

On motion of Mr. Jones, Mr. Roper was excused from attendance on the Senate to-day, on account of sickness.

The petition of the Stockholders of the Florida Atlantic and Gulf Railroad was received and read, and, on motion, referred to the Committee on Corporations.

Mr. Arnow, from the Committee on Public Lands, made the following report :

The Committee on Public Lands to whom was referred Senate bill entitled an act to authorize the sale of certain public lands, beg leave to

REPORT :

That they find that said lands are some of the reserved lands ac-

quired by secession, and about one-half or more miles from the Arsenal; that a portion of said lands are now cultivated by D. P. Holland, who rented the same from the State, and is making a crop and cultivating about ten acres of the same; and wishes to cultivate and clear enough of said lands for his own use. That the price proposed in said bill is more than the land is worth; but your committee think that it would not be advisable to sell the lands, as they are reserved; but that the same may be leased to the present occupant and lease for the term of fifteen years at one dollar per year; and on the expiration of the lease that the improvements belong to the State.— Your committee think that this is better than selling the lands, that when they are cleared and improved the improvements will be worth more than the rent is worth.

Your committee therefore recommend the annexed bill as a substitute for the bill referred to them, and recommend that the substitute do pass.

They have also considered the petition of Margaret J. McKeown, of Hillsboro' county, and report the bill herewith presented for her relief, and recommend that the same do pass.

They have also favorably considered the petition of the Register of Public Lands, and recommend the bill herewith submitted do pass, to enable the Register in carrying out the existing law upon the subject. All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. M. ARNOW, Chairman.

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

Mr. Abercrombie, from the Committee on Engrossed Bills, made the following report :

The Standing Committee on Engrossed Bills, report the following bills as correctly engrossed, viz;

A bill to be entitled an act in relation to holding Probate Court in Santa Rosa County; and,

A bill to be entitled an act more particularly defining the duties of Tax Assessors and Collectors in this State.

JAMES ABERCROMBIE, Chairman.

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

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

A bill to be entitled an act to prevent and punish all persons planting and cultivating, in the State of Florida, over a certain quantity of land in cotton and tobacco, during the continuance of the present war;

Was again taken up.