

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.

Mr. Holland withdrew his amendment, and presented the following:

Sec. 2. *Be it further enacted*, That there shall be a tax of \_\_\_\_\_ per cent. levied, assessed and collected on all leaf tobacco, planted, raised or made in this State, from and after the passage of this act, and said tax shall be assessed at its market value in Confederate or State Treasury Notes at the time of assessment, and said tax shall be assessed, levied and collected in like manner and at the same time as the tax provided by first section of this act: Provided, however, that there shall be exempt from said tax five hundred pounds of leaf tobacco to each hand, the word hand to be defined and construed as in the first section of this act.

Mr. Norwood moved to amend the amendment by striking out five hundred and inserting three hundred pounds.

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

The vote was:

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

Nays—Messrs. Holland and Scott—2.

So the amendment was adopted.

Mr. Taylor moved to fill the blank by inserting 80 per cent.; which was adopted.

On motion, the amendment of Mr. Holland was adopted.

Mr. Hogue presented the following amendment:

Sec. 3. *Be it further enacted*, That \_\_\_\_\_ hundred pounds of Short Staple Cotton in the seed, shall be taken and held to be equivalent to (500) lbs. ginned cotton, and, that \_\_\_\_\_ pounds of Long Staple Cotton, in the seed, shall be taken, held and considered to be equivalent to (175) lbs. ginned cotton, and when said cotton mentioned in the first section of this act shall not have been ginned when the assessment may be made, that there shall be levies collected on the Cotton, in the seed, the tax aforesaid, according to the estimate made in this section.

Mr. Norwood moved to fill up the blanks by inserting sixteen hundred pounds short, and seven hundred pounds of long cotton;

Which was adopted.

On motion, the amendments to the bill was adopted.

On motion, the rule was waived, and the bill read the third time by its title and put upon its passage, the vote was:

Yeas—Mr. President, Messrs. Carter, Cater, Clary, Cooper, Hogue, Holland, Jones, King, Norwood, Smith and Taylor—12.

Nays—Messrs. Abercrombie, Hopkins, Russell of Jefferson, Russell of 17th District and Scott—6.

So the bill passed.

Mr. Hogue moved to amend the title of the bill as follows:

A bill to be entitled an act in relation to the cultivation of cotton and tobacco in this State;

Which was adopted.

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

The rule was waived, to allow Mr. Taylor to present the credentials of John P. Baldwin, the Senator from the 21st District;

Mr. Taylor moved that the gentleman come forward and be sworn in;

Which was adopted.

Mr. Russell, of the 17th District, opposed the gentleman's taking his seat, on the grounds of constitutional ineligibility.

Mr. Baldwin came forward and declined being sworn in, until the Senate determine and declare him eligible to a seat in that body, as there seemed to be a difference of opinion on the subject of his eligibility.

Mr. Hogue moved to reconsider the action of the Senate on Mr. Taylor's motion.

Which was adopted.

Mr. Hogue moved that the credentials of the Senator of the 21st District, be referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, to determine as to his eligibility to a seat in the Senate of this State.

Which was adopted.

On motion, the rule was waived, to allow Mr. Russell to present the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the Attorney General of the State is hereby requested to inform this Senate, whether, in his opinion, any person, holding a commission in the Regular or Provisional Army of the Confederate States, or holding or exercising any office of profit under the Confederate States, is eligible as a member of the General Assembly of this State.

Which was adopted.

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

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

The vote was:

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

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 more particularly defining the duties of Tax Assessors and Collectors in this State,

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

The vote was:

Yeas—Mr. President, Messrs. Abercrombie, Arnow, Carter, Cater, Clary, Cooper, Hogue, Hopkins, Jones, King, Norwood, Scott, Smith and Taylor—15.

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 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 first time, rule waived, read the second time by its title, and, on motion, passed over informally.

On motion, the rule was waived, to allow Mr. Abercrombie to make the following motion:

*Resolved*; That no member of this body shall be allowed to speak longer than ten minutes at one time, to any question, during the balance of this session;

Which was adopted.

Mr. Holland moved to amend by striking out ten and inserting five minutes;

Which was adopted.

Mr. Smith moved to amend by adding "not more than twice on the same subject;"

Which was adopted.

On motion, the rule was waived, to allow Mr. Russell of Jefferson, to present the following bill:

A bill to be entitled an act to provide a police for the county of Jefferson;

Which was placed among the orders of the day.

The rule was waived to allow the Committee on Enrolled Bills to make the following report:

The Committee on Enrolled Bills have examined an act entitled an act to allow the Judges of the Circuit Court of this State to appoint Sheriffs in certain cases, and find the same correctly enrolled.

J. M. ARNOW, Chairman.

Which was read.

The rule was waived to allow Mr. Russell to make the following report:

The Select Committee to whom was referred a bill to be entitled an act to incorporate the Monticello and Northern Rail Road, beg leave to

## REPORT:

That, after a careful investigation of the merits of the same they concur in the propriety of its passage. No pecuniary aid from the State is sought therein; and its contemplated construction is by the private enterprize of citizens whose community it is expected mostly to benefit.

The Committee therefore recommend that the bill do pass with the following amendment, to-wit;

In the title of the bill strike out the word "Northern," and insert in lieu thereof the word Thomasville; strike out the 1st section and in lieu thereof insert the following:

*SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Florida in General Assembly convened, That J. T. Jones, J. S. Divine, Robert Scott, Richard Turbull, Richard Parkhill, F. R. Fields, B. W. Bellamy and A. M. Manning, of the county of Jefferson, be and they are hereby appointed commissioners, to open books and receive subscriptions for stock in a railroad to be constructed from the town of Monticello, by the most practicable route, to the Georgia line in the direction of Thomasville, Georgia, any five of whom are authorized to open books for the purpose of receiving subscriptions to the capital stock of said company at such times, (not exceeding nine months after the passage of this act) and places as they or a majority of them may think proper, upon giving public notice thereof of not less than twenty days, and shall keep the same open until the whole of the capital stock is subscribed. Also strike out the 3d section and in lieu thereof insert the following:*

*SECTION 3. Be it further enacted, That said railroad be and is hereby authorized to connect or intersect at the Georgia line with a railroad to be constructed from Thomasville, Georgia. Also in the 6th line of the 4th section, strike out the word "Northern" and insert in lieu thereof the word Thomasville. All of which is respectfully submitted.*

JAMES S. RUSSELL, Chairman.  
JAMES ABERCROMBIE,  
JAMES G. COOPER.

Which was read.

On motion, the amendments were adopted.

On motion, the bill was placed first among the orders of the day. A bill to be entitled an act to incorporate the Monticello and Northern Railroad Company, with amendments,

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

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

## THREE O'CLOCK, P. M.

The Senate resumed its session.

The President in the chair.

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

Mr. President, Messrs. Abercrombie, Arnow, Carter, Clary, Cooper, Hogue, Holland, Hopkins, Jones, King, Norwood, Russell of Jefferson, Smith and Taylor—15.

A quorum present.

The following communication was received from the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
November 26th, 1863.

HON. E. J. VANN,

President of the Senate:

SIR—The House has this day passed the following bills and resolution, viz:

Senate 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;

Senate bill to be entitled an act to incorporate the Apalachicola Channel Company; and,

House resolution for the relief of Justices of the Peace.

Respectfully,

THOS. B. BAREFOOT,  
Clerk House Representatives.

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

The orders of the day were resumed:

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

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

Mr. Taylor moved to indefinitely postpone the bill;

Which was lost.

On motion, the rule was waived, and the bill read the third time and placed upon its passage.

The vote was:

Yeas—Mr. President, Messrs. Arnow, Carter, Cooper, Holland, King, Norwood, Russell of 17th District and Scott—9.

Nays—Messrs. Abercrombie, Clary, Hogue, Hopkins, Jones, Russell of Jefferson, Smith and Taylor—8.

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 authorize the sale of certain public lands; and,

Substitute of the Committee on Public Lands;

On motion, the substitute was received in lieu of the original.

A bill to be entitled an act to lease certain lands belonging to the State,

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

The vote was:

Yeas—Messrs. Abercrombie, Arnow, Cooper, Hogue, Jones, King, Russell of Jefferson and Taylor—8.

Nays—Mr. President, Messrs. Carter, Hopkins, Norwood, Russell of 17th District and Scott—6.

Mr. Smith was excused from voting.

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 Taxation and Revenue to make the following report:

The Committee on Taxation and Revenue, to whom was referred a bill to be entitled an act to amend an act relative to the assessment of taxes, beg leave to report: that they have had the same under consideration, and, after a careful investigation of the same, beg leave to report the bill back to the Senate, and request that it do pass.

J. S. RUSSELL, Chairman.

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

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

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

The vote was:

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

Nay—Mr. Norwood—1.

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 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 December 13, 1862,

Was read the second time.

Mr. Hopkins moved to amend by inserting the words "shall or may have died," in the 8th line;

Which was adopted.

Mr. Norwood moved to amend by inserting the word "minor" before children;

Which was adopted.

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

A bill to be entitled an act to provide for the payment for plats furnished the various counties,

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

The vote was:

Yeas—Mr. President, Messrs. Abercrombie, Arnow, Clary, Cooper, Hogue, Holland, Hopkins, Jones, King and Taylor—13.

Nays—Messrs. Norwood, Russell of Jefferson and Smith—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 for the relief of Margaret J. McKeown, widow of James A. McKeown,

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, Clary, Cooper, Hogue, Holland, Hopkins, Jones, King, Norwood, Russell, of Jefferson, Russell, of 17th District, Scott Smith and Taylor—16.

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 provide a police for the county of Jefferson,

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

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

Was read the second time, and on motion, passed over informally until to-morrow.

House bill to be entitled an act to amend the sixth section of an act to change the mode of selecting Grand and Petit Jurors in this State, approved February 8, 1861,

Was read the second time.

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

The vote was:

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

of Jefferson, Russell of 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.

House bill to legalize the entry of public lands made after the secession of Florida and requiring the Receiver to account for the moneys received therefor.

Was read a second time, rule waived, read a time by title and put on its passage;

The vote was:

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

Nays—None.

So the bill passed—title as stated.

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

House bill requiring Sheriffs to give additional security in in certain cases,

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

House bill for the relief of Edward Jordan, of Taylor County.

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

The vote was:

Yeas—Mr. President, Messrs. Clary, Holland, Hopkins, King, Norwood, Russell of Jefferson, Russell of 17th Dist. and Smith—9.

Nays—Messrs. Abercrombie, Arnow, Carter, Cooper, Hogue, Jones, Scott and Taylor—8.

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 for the protection of the stock of citizens in the counties of Lafayette, Taylor, Levy, Orange and Brevard,

Was read the second time, and referred to the Committee on Corporations.

House bill to be entitled an act to raise the salary of the State Treasurer, and other officers therein named,

Was read the first time, rule waived, read the second time.

Mr. Holland presented the following amendment:

*Be it further enacted,* That Jailers shall receive the sum of two dollars per day, for each prisoner.

The yeas and nays being called for by Messrs. Holland and Norwood,

The vote was:

Yeas—Mr. President, Messrs. Arnow, Cooper, Holland, Jones, King and Russell of 17th District—7.

Nays—Messrs. Abercrombie, Carter, Clary, Hopkins, Norwood, Russell of Jefferson, Scott, Smith and Taylor—9.

So the amendment was not adopted.

Mr. Holland presented the following amendment :

That the Jailor shall receive one dollar per day, for each prisoner's subsistence ;

Which was adopted.

Mr. King offered the following amendment :

That the Comptroller be allowed, in addition to his present salary, two hundred dollars ;

The yeas and nays being called for by the Senators from the 5th and 13th Districts,

The vote was :

Yeas—Mr. President, Messrs. Arnow, Cooper, Hogue, Holland, Hopkins, King, Russell of 17th District, Scott and Taylor—10.

Nays—Messrs. Abercrombie, Carter, Clary, Jones, Norwood, Russell of Jefferson and Smith—7.

So the amendment was adopted.

Mr. Abercrombie moved to amend the amendment by paying all officers of this State, whose salaries have not been raised by this Legislature, double what they have heretofore been paid ;

Which was not adopted.

Mr. Hogue presented the following amendment :

*Be it further enacted,* That the fees of Sheriffs, Clerks of the Circuit Court and Judges of Probate, shall be double the present fees allowed by law.

The yeas and nays being called for by the Senators from the 6th and 12th Districts, the vote was :

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

Nays—Messrs. Carter, Clary, Jones, King, Norwood, Russell of Jefferson, Scott and Smith—8.

So the amendment was adopted.

Mr. Cooper offered the following amendments :

That the Clerk of the Register of Public Lands be allowed, in addition to his present salary, five hundred dollars ; also,

That the Comptroller's Clerk be allowed, in addition to his present salary, five hundred dollars ;

Which was not adopted.

Mr. Holland offered the following amendment :

*Be it further enacted,* That the State shall take measures to procure subsistence for the officers of the State, whose salaries have not been raised, at the prices of same articles before the war ;

Which was not adopted.

The bill was placed among the orders of the day, for a third reading on to-morrow.

House bill to be entitled an act providing for the payment of certain claims against the State,

Was read the first time, rule waived, read the second time, and referred to the Committee on Propositions and Grievances.

House bill to be entitled an act to authorize Banks in this State to issue change bills,

Was read the first time, rule waived, read the second time, and on motion, indefinitely postponed.

On motion, the rule was waived, to allow Mr. Abercrombie to move, that Mr. Cater be excused from attendance on the Senate this afternoon, on account of sickness in his family ;

Which was adopted.

The rule was waived, to allow Mr. Abercrombie to present the following resolution :

*Resolved by the Senate,* That whenever any one of any of the Committees of this body, who shall fail to attend committee, after being notified, shall furnish the Senate, in open Senate, an excuse for the same, or be struck from said Committee ; and the same to be reported to the Senate by the chairman of said committee, and placed upon the proceedings of this body ;

Which was ordered to lay over until to-morrow.

The rule was waived to allow Mr. Norwood to present the following additional rule to the Standing Rules of the Senate :

**ADDITIONAL RULE.**—There shall be printed each day for the use of the Senate a Calender, which shall contain a list of the bills and resolutions to be taken up, under the head of orders of the day, in the following order : 1st. bills on the first reading, 2nd. bills on their second reading, and 3rd. bills on their third reading, which said calender shall be exhausted before any other Bill or Resolution shall be taken up, unless the Senate shall otherwise direct by a two third vote. *Provided* that a bill or resolution introduced on the same day previous to taking up the orders of the day, shall be considered as placed on the calender among the bills on their first reading, to be read after that head of the calender shall have been exhausted.

Which was adopted.

On motion, the rule was waived to allow Mr. Holland to make the following report from the Select Committee :

The Joint and Select Committee to whom was referred the Special Message of the Governor on Impressments, and the Senate bill entitled an act to protect the citizens of this State from oppression by persons claiming to act under authority from the Confederate Government,

## REPORT :

That they have had the same under consideration. The encroachments of the military on the civil power is hostile to *liberty*. In England, under Charles the First, it resulted in civil war, revolution and despotism; in France, under Napoleon, in the Empire.— In the United States the civil power lies prostrate at the feet of the military. In Mexico its patriots wander in Europe in search of a king to rule over them. But wherefore continue the examples? The history of ancient and modern republics show the lamentable fact that, under the iron heel of military rule, the liberties of the people were trampled. Yet our training, mode of thought, and economic elements of the social fabric forbid the most distant approach to monarchy. The very troops in the field, habituated to obey without enquiry, are the strongest bulwarks against the progress of despotism, for their social position at home is not inferior to that of the officers who now command them. They are not soldiers by profession; a sense of duty drove them into the field, and when that duty is performed they will abandon the army without regret. From them encroachments on the civil liberties of their relations and countrymen are not to be expected. We must needs congratulate ourselves that, while the encroachments of the military on the civil power is hostile to liberty, Providence has so placed us that we need apprehend no danger that such encroachments will be made. Owing to peculiar legislation on financial subjects, the Congress of the Confederacy found it expedient to pass the act of impressment. The impression having prevailed among the people that the tax in kind would be adequate to support the army. This act had partially fallen into disfavor among those living on the State line, owing to the fact that their neighbors in an adjacent State can obtain more by the schedule prices established than at home.— A tendency to dispose of their crops in the adjacent State was naturally manifested, and the impressing officers, vigilant in obedience to orders, sought to check that tendency. Thus feeling became aroused, nor is it wonderful if some of the various agents of the Confederacy did not act in strict accordance with the *manifold* instructions, emanating from the *multifarious* officers who have been *multiplied* in the land to simplify and render effective the impressment act. This state of things could not last long without leading to consequences disagreeable, and Gen. Gardner's recent order, unexplained, did not tend to stay the natural order of events. Hence the special message of his Excellency, disclaiming as he does any assault on private individuals, was a positive benefit to the State at large, inasmuch as it induced members of the Legislature to give the impressment act serious thought and consideration. Heretofore every Floridian felt that private rights must give way to the public

good, now there are those who think that the public good could not be promoted by the sacrifice of private rights.

Revolutions never go back; and we have no assurance that a constitution would be respected in time of peace, which failed to protect them in time of war. In the meantime, the armies in the field stand in need of supplies from Florida. Supplies *must be* had, and the most ready and effective means is to *impress*. For, should the government at Richmond come into the market as a purchaser, and give, yea, a thousand times the prices demanded, the currency would depreciate so that the farmer would not, in reality, obtain for his crop even the schedule price. The impressment law meets our hearty approval. It is constitutional, it is capable of being made effective without being oppressive; and when the fact is taken into consideration, that the compensation, in the meaning of the constitution, is independent of the schedule prices, it is an equitable and just law. But the manner of enforcing that law, through ignorance or otherwise, may render the law odious by rendering it oppressive. Hence, the well being of our armies in the field, and a just regard for the rights of our citizens, imperatively demand that the abuses of the impressment law should be rigidly guarded against and rigorously punished. To attain this end, the following bill has been prepared as a substitute for the original, and they recommend that said bill do pass.

All of which is respectfully submitted, and have sent the bill prepared by them to the Senate.

D. P. HOLLAND,  
Chairman Senate Committee.  
JOSEPH M. TAYLOR,  
JAMES ABERCROMBIE,  
THOS. J. McGEHEE,  
Chairman House Committee.  
WM. B. ROSS.

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

The Committee on Military Affairs to whom was referred the bill to be entitled an act, to amend the Election Laws of this State in relation to soldiers-voting, beg leave to report, that they have had the same under consideration and recommend its passage.

D. P. HOLLAND, Chairman.

Which was read and the bill placed among the orders of the day, House resolution relative to the Civil Authority of the State of Florida;

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

House resolution for the relief of Justices of the Peace:

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

On motion, the Senate adjourned until 9 o'clock to-morrow morning.

FRIDAY, November 27, 1863.

The Senate met pursuant to adjournment.

The President in the chair.

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

Mr. President, Messrs. Abercrombie, Arnow, Carter, Cater, Clary, Hogue, Jones, King, Norwood, Roper, Russell, of 17th District, Smith and Taylor—14.

A quorum present.

Prayer by Rev. Mr. Smith.

The Journal of yesterday was read and approved.

The President declared motions in order.

Petitions and memorials in order.

Resolutions in order.

Reports of Standing Committees in order.

Reports of Select Committees in order.

#### ORDERS OF THE DAY.

A bill to be entitled an act to provide a police for the county of Jefferson,

Was read the second time.

Mr. Russell, of Jefferson, offered the following amendments:

Insert at the discretion of the County Commissioner.

Strike out the words "general supervision;"

Which was adopted.

Mr. Hogue moved to amend by adding the following section:

SEC. 6. *Be it further enacted*, That all the other counties in this State may, through the action of their respective County Commissioners, adopt the provisions of this act as a system of police for their future respective counties.

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

Senate resolution relative to committees of the Senate,

Was read and adopted.

On motion, the rule was waived, to allow the Committee on Engrossed Bills, to make the following report:

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

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 sale of public lands, approved December, 13, 1863.

JAMES ABERCROMBIE, Chm'n.

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

The rule was waived, to allow the Committee on Propositions and Grievances, to make the following reports:

The Committee on Propositions and Grievances, to whom was referred a bill to be entitled an act for the relief of D. B. Cappleman, Sheriff of Marion, having had the same under consideration, and believe from all the evidence in the case, said rule is just. Therefore we recommend its passage.

J. S. RUSSELL, Chm'n.

Also the following:

The Committee on Propositions and Grievances, to whom was referred the petition Madison Post, late Receiver in the Land Office at Tampa, beg leave to report the petition back to the Senate for their consideration, as the evidence in the case is of such a nature, that they do not feel prepared to advise the Senate in the premises.

All of which they respectfully submit,

J. S. RUSSELL, Chm'n.

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

House resolution for the relief of Justices of the Peace,

Was read the second time, and on motion, referred to a select committee of three.

The Chair appointed, as said committee, Messrs. Hopkins, Norwood and Cater.

House resolution relative to the civil authority of the State,

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

The rule was waived, to allow the Committee on Enrolled Bills, to make the following report:

The Committee on Enrolled Bills, have examined an act to amend the charter of the city of Pensacola, so as authorize said city to aid in the construction of certain railroads, and find the same correctly enrolled.

J. M. ARNOW, Chm'n.

Which was read.

A bill to be entitled an act for the relief of D. B. Cappleman Sheriff of Marion County.

Was read second time, rule was waived, read a third time and put on its passage,

The vote was:

Yeas—Mr. President, Messrs. Arnow, Carter, Cater, Clary, Cooper,