

Mr. Holland moved to amend the 5th Section by striking out the words "one quarter of an acre" and inserting "one acre,"

Which was lost.

Mr. Arnow moved to waive the rule.

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

The vote was :

Yeas—Messrs. Arnow, Carter, Cooper, Norwood, Russell of Jefferson and Scott—6.

Nays—Mr. President, Messrs. Cater, Hogue, Holland, Hopkins, King and Russell of 17th District—7.

So the rule was not waived.

Mr. Holland presented the following amendment :

SEC. 11. *Be it further enacted*, That it shall be unlawful for any person or persons in this State to sell or purchase any article or articles in this State, at a greater price than that fixed or paid for like articles by the Confederate States, and any person or persons violating the provision of this section, shall, on conviction, be fined at the discretion of the Jury, not less than double the value of the article so sold or purchased.

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

The vote was :

Yeas—Messrs. Hogue, Holland and Russell of 17th District—3.

Nays—Mr. President, Messrs. Abercrombie, Arnow, Carter, Cater, Clary, Cooper, Hopkins, King, Norwood, Roper, Russell of Jefferson and Scott—13.

So the amendment was not adopted.

On motion of Mr. Arnow, the rule was waived and the bill read the third time by its title, and put on its passage,

The vote was :

Yeas—Mr. President, Messrs. Abercrombie, Arnow, Carter, Cooper, King, Norwood, Russell of Jefferson, Russell of 17th District and Scott—10.

Nays—Messrs. Cater, Hogue, Holland and Hopkins—4.

Mr. Roper was excused from voting.

So the bill passed—title as stated.

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

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, viz :

A bill to be entitled an act to provide for the relief of soldiers' families and others that require assistance.

JAMES ABERCROMBIE, Chm'n.

Which was read and the accompanying bill taken up as special order for 5 o'clock, P. M.

A bill to be entitled an act to provide for the relief of soldiers' families and others that require assistance,

Was read the third time and put upon its passage;

The vote was :

Yeas—Mr. President, Messrs. Abercrombie, Carter, Cater, Clary, Cooper, Holland, Hopkins, King, Norwood, Roper, Russell of 17th District and Scott—13.

Nays—Messrs. Arnow and Russell of Jefferson—2.

So the bill passed—title as stated.

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

The following communication was received from the House of Representatives :

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
December 1st, 1863. }

HON. E. J. VANN,

President of the Senate :

SIR—The House has this day passed the following bills, to wit :
Senate bill to be entitled an act to repeal Ordinance No. 62 ;

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

Senate bill to be entitled an act to lease certain lands belonging to the State of Florida, with amendments ; and,

Senate bill to be entitled an act to assist the faithful and necessary enforcement of the Impressment act of Congress, and to protect and defend the citizens of this State from oppression, and unlawful acts of persons violating the said acts, or claiming to act under the authority of the Confederate Government, with amendment.

Respectfully,

THOS. B. BAREFOOT,
Clerk of the House of Representatives.

Which was read and House amendments to Senate bills concurred in, and Senate bills ordered to be enrolled.

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

WEDNESDAY, December 2nd, 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, Cater, Clary, Hogue, Holland, King, Norwood, Roper, Smith and Taylor—12.

A quorum present.

Prayer by Rev. Mr. Smith.

The Journal of yesterday was read and approved.

On motion, the rule was waived to allow Mr. Hogue to present the following bill:

A bill to be entitled an act to compel Railroad Companies in Florida to accommodate travelling passengers with seats;

Which was placed among the orders of the day.

The rule was waived, to allow Mr. Roper to present the following bill:

A bill to be entitled an act to authorize the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Sumpter County, to keep his office at his own house;

Which was placed among the orders of the day.

The rule was waived, to allow Mr. Norwood to present the following bill:

A bill to be entitled an act to declare and establish the rights of the State of Florida in certain railroads;

Which was placed among the orders of the day.

The rule was waived to allow Mr. Arnow to present the following bill:

A bill to be entitled an act to levy a tax on blockade or imported liquors;

Which was placed among the orders of the day.

The rule was waived to allow Mr. Holland to present the following bill:

A bill to be entitled an act to authorize the sale of a certain portion of the common school lands, to Francis M. Bryan, of Franklin county:

Which was placed among the orders of the day.

Mr. Norwood presented the following resolution:

Resolved, That no new matter shall be received into the Senate after the adoption of this resolution, without the unanimous consent of the Senate, excepting the appropriation bills and the reports of committees;

Which was adopted.

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

The Judiciary Committee, to whom was referred a bill to be entitled an act to amend an act entitled an act to provide for the more effectual administration of justice in the Courts of this State, approved January 24th, 1851, report the same back to the Senate and recommend its passage with the following amendments, viz:

Strike out the words "except that being over the age of sixty, shall not be a disqualification," in the first section. Also, strike out the fifth section.

D. P. HOGUE, Chm'n.

Which was read and the bill placed among the orders of the day. Mr. Taylor, from the Committee on Internal Improvements, made the following report:

The Committee on Internal Improvements, to whom was referred the report of the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund and accompanying documents, in relation to the St. Johns and Indian River Canal, beg leave to

REPORT:

That they have had the same under consideration. The evidence before the committee is of an unsatisfactory character. We are at a loss to determine by what rule of law, of principle, of equity, the Board of Internal Improvements should set apart "eight thousand dollars per annum for the payment of interest on bonds to be issued by the Canal Commissioners. We censure no body, for we do not know the facts. Nor do we comprehend why ex-Governor W. D. Moseley should deposit, at New York, four thousand dollars received from the Board of Internal Improvements. "without the consent and against the advice of the Board of Canal Commissioners." Nor do we appreciate the reasonable modesty of James G. Speer, Chairman Board of Canal Commissioners, who says; "as our Board only received of this amount (to-wit: the four thousand dollars above alluded to,) about thirteen hundred dollars afterwards paid by you (to-wit: the Board of Internal Improvements,) to Col. J. O. Devall, Secretary and Treasurer of our Board, we ask that you," meaning the Board of Internal Improvements, "give us credit for the difference." When it is considered that the sum of seventeen thousand five hundred dollars has been "actually expended in the work," to use the expressive language of the President of the Board of Internal Improvements, and that the amount of work done is figured up in the significant declaration of the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners, to-wit: "the contractor had *only* got properly to work" when the events of the war induced him to abandon the undertaking. We might deem his modesty sublime if unconnected with a liberal system of Internal Improvement. After the expenditure of that amount of money, his Excellency, the President of the Board of Internal Improvements, arriving at a conclusion, no doubt of great benefit to the fund he represents, for we are informed "it is to be presumed but a few yards of the canal have actually been dug, the value of which is of course but small if anything." Even this poor

consolation is derived by inspiration for James G. Speer, Chairman Board of Canal Commissioners, does not report the progress of the work.

It is well to state here and in this connection, that the whole amount paid for the work done on the canal, appears from the evidence before us, to be six hundred and twenty-two dollars and twenty cents, something less than the amount paid J. G. Speer for locating twenty thousand two hundred and twenty-seven acres of land; that amount being nine hundred and seventy-two dollars and sixty cents. The balance of the seventeen thousand five hundred dollars has been expended in a manner doubtless satisfactory to the parties interested.

There is another matter to which the attention of the Senate is invited. The deed which "do hereby release and convey to the said Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund, all lands and real estate now owned by the Commissioners of the St. Johns and Indian River Canal," does not describe the lands intended to be conveyed.

In view of the facts before them, the Committee recommend the passage of the following bill, which is made a part and parcel of this report.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

JOSEPH M. TAYLOR, Chm'n.

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

Also the following:

The Committee on Internal Improvements, to whom was referred the documents touching the alleged sale of sequestered stock in the Florida Railroad Company, beg leave to

REPORT:

That they have had the same under consideration. They feel mortified that the local transactions of private individuals should be brought to their attention. The transactions of a huckster, selling eggs in the market at Tallahassee, could, with an equal propriety, be referred to your committee. From the evidence before this committee, it does not appear that the seventeen hundred shares in the Florida Railroad, which has been sequestered, has ever been sold; but, on the contrary, that it is still in the hands of the Receiver to be sold. Gentlemen, or the Internal Improvement Board, wishing to invest in that stock, can yet have the opportunity. The golden moment is not yet passed; the millions to be realized are yet within the reach of the judicious speculator. No wrong has yet been done to the State of Florida or to the Internal Improvement Fund; and yet a sale has taken place. It was advertised in the Cotton States, and auctioned to a crowd of, doubtless, eager purchasers—it was sold

to highest bidder. Here then is an apparent conflict of testimony. Let us pause and examine. And first, before we go into this question, let us ascertain the true position of the State of Florida in this transaction. Owing to several acts of the Legislature, the wisdom of which may be called into question, the State of Florida, through the machinery of an Internal Improvement Board, has become a stockholder in several railroads in this State. Among other railroads, the State of Florida has invested means in the Florida Railroad. In that road the State is a large stockholder. No one contends that her stock is superior in value, in interest, in duration, or in anything else, to the shares of her co-stock jobbers, who speculate on the wants of the people of Florida. This doctrine does not as yet prevail, and meet advocates in the State. That the State does not reap equal benefits, make equal dividends, in proportion to the shares she holds in the road, is a subject of frequent animadversion, especially among those who seemingly forget that the State is pledged to a liberal system of Internal Improvements. Even in those cases, citizens readily admit that questions of that kind can find a just and true solution only in the courts of law; and not in the arena and whirl of politics, where, men looking to success as the chief good, regard the means of secondary importance. While these questions agitate the public mind, in steps the Confederacy and claims that certain individual stockholders have forfeited their shares, which must be sold, for the Confederacy is too wise to become a stockholder, and the proceeds thereof in cash be placed to the benefit of the Confederacy. This claim of the Confederacy does not affect one solitary share owned by the State, and your committee has yet to learn that the sale of shares, owned by private individuals, can affect the honor, monetary interest, or integrity of the State. Clearly then, it is a question of no moment to the State whether John Doe or Richard Roe is the owner of the individual shares owned by her joint stock jobbers. No right is conferred on the State by reason of the fact, that the Confederacy claims that certain individual stockholders have forfeited their shares of stock in the Florida Railroad. The mode and manner of the sale of the forfeited or sequestered stock, is a question in which the Confederacy has the sole and only interest. The State of Florida has no interest in that question.— This is the position in which the State of Florida is placed touching the sale of sequestered stock of the Florida Railroad.

Your committee affirm that the seventeen hundred shares of stock in the Florida Railroad Company has never been sold, nor exposed to sale by the Receiver. This statement is made in the face of an apparent conflict of testimony, and it devolves, therefore, on your committee to reconcile these statements, with the facts, as they stand before your committee. The task is by no means difficult. There was stock advertised in the Cotton States, sold by the auctioneer to

the highest bidder, at Gainesville; but that stock had never been sequestered, had never been in the hands of the Receiver, because it was stock held in the name of the Hon. David L. Yulee. The how and wherefore said stock was sold, is contained in the transcript of the proceedings from the records of the court, over which the Hon. Judge Hawkins presides. It is not the purpose of your committee to review the proceedings of Judge Hawkins: They do not know of any jurisdiction that the Legislature of Florida has in the premises. They do not recognize the fact that the General Assembly is an appellate court to review the proceedings of Judge Hawkins.—Your committee declines the task of making the judiciary subservient to the legislative power of the State. We again recur to the fact, that the stock sold, was held in the name of the Hon. David L. Yulee. Northern parties were entitled to the surplus value of that stock, deducting the indebtedness to Mr. Yulee. Such were the facts that became apparent to the court. It was, therefore, sold with full understanding of and by arrangement with the commissioners of the Confederate Court, appointed for the purpose of a settlement with Mr. Yulee. On these facts there is no conflict of testimony. The apparent conflict originates in the fertile imaginations of those gentlemen who heap eulogiums or invectives on the devoted head of Mr. Yulee, when squaring their sails to the popular breeze.

Your committee again repeat that they are mortified that the private transactions of individuals should be dragged before them, and that the transactions in the market house could, with equal propriety, be brought to their attention.

Respectfully,

JOSEPH M. TAYLOR,
Chairman Com. on Internal Improvements.

Which was read.

Mr. Abercrombie, as a member of the Standing Committee on the Internal Improvements, beg to state, in as much as he did not have time to investigate the many subjects referred to said Committee, and reported on this day by the Hon. J. M. Taylor, Chairman of said Committee, he neither assented or objected to said report.

Which was read.

The standing Committee on Engrossed Bills, beg leave to report, as correctly engrossed, the following bill.

An Act in relation to defaulting Jurors.

JAMES ABERCROMBIE, Chairman.

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

The Committee on Enrolled Bills made the following report:

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

An act more particularly defining the duties of Tax Assessors and Collectors in this State;

An act for the relief of Margaret J. McKeown, widow of James A. McKeown; and,

An act for the relief of D. B. Cappleman, Sheriff of Marion county.
J. M. ARNOW, Chm'n.

Which was read.

The Special Committee to whom was referred, the House bill to be entitled an act, to prevent the Distilling of Spirituous Liquors in this State, have instructed me to refer the bill back to the Senate and recommend that it pass with the enclosed amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

D. P. HOLLAND, Chairman.

Which was read, and the bill placed among the orders of the day. The undersigned minority of said Committee reports that so long as the Blockade is kept open to Whiskey and Rum runners it is not wise in the General Assembly to punish our own citizens for making liquor.

Respectfully,

D. P. HOLLAND.

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

The Committee on Enrolled Bills find a resolution without title, correctly enrolled:

J. M. ARNOW, Chairman.

The following communication was received from the House of Representatives.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
December 2d, 1863.

Hon. E. J. VANN,

President of the Senate:

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

Senate bill to be entitled an act, to legalize the acts of Samuel Low, with amendments to title,

Senate bill to be entitled an act, for the relief of Albert Hyer, and,

Senate Joint Resolution relative to our sick or wounded soldiers in General Bragg's Army, with amendment.

Very respectfully,

THOS. B. BAREFOOT,
Clerk House of Rep.

Which was read and House amendments to Senate bill concurred in and bill and resolution ordered to be enrolled.

Mr. Taylor moved that the bill relating to the two Seminaries of Learning be taken out of the hands of the Committee and placed among the orders of the day.

Which was adopted.

The rule was waived to allow Mr. Russell of Jefferson to present the following,

A bill to be entitled an act to amend the patrol laws of this State. Which was placed among the order of the day.

On motion of Mr. Hogue, the action of the Senate yesterday on the House bill relative to interest on judgments was reconsidered, and the bill placed among the orders of the day.

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

A bill to be entitled an act to repeal a certain part of an act to amend the election laws in this State as regards the mode of voting and for other purposes, approved Dec. 8th 1862,

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

The vote was:

Yeas—Mr. President, Messrs. Allison, Carter, Hogue, Holland, Hopkins, Norwood and Taylor—8.

Nays—Messrs. Abercrombie, Arnow, Cater, Clary, Cooper, King, Roper, Russell of Jefferson, Russell of 17th District, Scott and Smith—11.

So the bill was lost.

A bill to be entitled an act for the relief of Peter Parker, of Washington County.

Was read the first time, rule waived, and read the second time by title, and ordered for a third reading to-morrow.

On motion of Mr. Holland, the rule was waived and the bill to pay the debts due by the State of Florida, was taken up.

Mr. Holland presented as a substitute,

A bill to be entitled an act to pay certain claims,

Which was read the second time.

Mr. Allison offered as a substitute for the substitute,

A bill to be entitled an act, in relation to certain claims.

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

The vote was:

Yeas—Messrs. Allison, Arnow, Cooper, Hogue, Roper, Russell of Jefferson, Russell of 17th District and Smith—8.

Nays—Mr. President, Messrs. Abercrombie, Carter, Cater, Clary, Holland, Hopkins, King, Norwood, Scott and Taylor—11.

So it was lost.

The question being on the adoption of Mr. Holland's substitute, it was adopted.

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

The rule was waived to allow the Joint and Select Committee to make the following report:

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

The undersigned members of the several Joint and Select Committees to whom were referred the unsettled accounts of Ex-Gov. M. S. Perry, beg leave to

REPORT:

That they have had the same under consideration and, after mature deliberation, recommend that a skillful accountant be appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate, with full power to investigate and settle the unsettled account between Ex-Gov. Perry, H. V. Snell, Q. M. and John W. Pearson, special Agent, and the State, and also between themselves. As there appear to have been and still exist very large unsettled money transactions between the State and all those gentlemen as well as between themselves, thence the almost utter impossibility of determining what sum is due to or from either of them, without a final settlement with the whole of them. And that the Comptroller be instructed to audit and settle with those gentlemen in accordance with the settlement of said accountant, and that said accountant report such settlement to the next General Assembly of this State.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

JESSE NORWOOD,
J. M. ARNOW,
JAMES G. COOPER,
JNO SCOTT,
F. A. TILLMAN,
A. Y. HAMPTON,
J. C. GREELEY.

On motion, the joint resolution relative to the unsettled accounts of ex-Gov. Perry, Quarter Master General H. V. Snell, and J. W. Pearson, Disbursing Agent, was taken up and read the first time.

On motion, the rule was waived, and the resolution read the second and third times by its title, and put upon its passage;

The vote was:

Yeas—Messrs. Abercrombie, Arnow, Carter, Cater, Cooper, Hogue, Holland, Russell of Jefferson, Scott, Smith and Taylor—11.

Nays—Mr. President, Messrs. Allison, Clary, Hopkins, King, Roper and Russell of 17th District—7.

Mr. Norwood was excused from voting.

So the resolution passed—title as stated.

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

House resolution relative to Confederate Treasury Notes,

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—Messrs. Allison, Arnow, Carter, Cooper, Holland, King, Russell of Jefferson, Russell of 17th District, Scott, Smith and Taylor—11.

Nays—Mr. President, Messrs. Abercrombie, Cater, Clary, Hogue, Norwood and Roper—7.

So the resolution passed—title as stated.

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

A bill to be entitled an act to appropriate \$10,000 for the Way Side Homes or Hospitals in this State,

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, Allison, Arnow, Carter, Cater, Clary, Hogue, Holland, Hopkins, King, Roper, Russell of 17th District, Smith and Taylor—14.

Nay—Mr. Russell of Jefferson—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 compel railroads in this State to accommodate passengers travelling on their roads with seats,

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—Messrs. Arnow, Cooper, Hogue, Holland, Hopkins, King, Russell of Jefferson and Russell of 17th District—8.

Nays—Mr. President, Messrs. Abercrombie, Allison, Carter, Cater, Clary, Norwood, Roper, Smith and Taylor—10.

So the bill was lost.

On motion of Mr. Russell of Jefferson, Mr. Smith was excused from further attendance on the Senate.

Mr. Cooper, from the Committee on the State of the Commonwealth, made the following report:

The Committee on the State of the Commonwealth, to whom was referred the preamble and resolutions, in relation to prices of articles sold in this State over the schedule prices, beg leave to report: that they have had same under consideration, and recommend the passage of the accompanying bill.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

J. G. COOPER, Chm'n.

Which was read and the bill placed among the orders of the day. The undersigned members of the Committee on the State of the Commonwealth, beg leave most respectfully, to dissent from the re-

port made by the chairman of said committee, on the subject of taxation, as the result of such legislation would be to reduce the price of all articles or provisions, to the price fixed by the Commissioners, which the undersigned regard as wholly impracticable, ruinous to the vendor and purchaser, and more especially to the purchaser and utterly nugatory and uncalled for.

JAMES ABERCROMBIE,
E. L. CATER.

Which was read.

A bill to be entitled an act to levy a tax on blockade or imported liquors,

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

Mr. Holland offered the following amendment:

SEC. 3. *Be it further enacted*, That there shall be levied, assessed and collected, a tax upon all goods, wares and merchandize, brought into this State from any foreign country, of twenty-five per centum, excepting goods, wares and merchandize belonging to the Confederate States or the State of Florida.

Mr. Taylor presented the following proviso:

Provided, That the tax so collected shall be paid into the County Treasury, in the County where the vessel bringing said goods, wares and merchandize, enters and discharges, and said taxes shall be used for the benefit of the indigent soldiers' families of said County.

The yeas and nays being called for by the Senators from the 7th and 14th Districts,

The vote was:

Yeas—Messrs. Abercrombie, Cooper, Hogue, Hopkins, Norwood, Roper, Russell of Jefferson and Taylor—8.

Nays—Mr. President, Messrs. Allison, Arnow, Carter, Cater, Clary, Holland, King, Russell of 17th District, Scott and Smith—11.

So the proviso was not adopted.

The question being upon the adoption of the amendment of Mr. Holland,

The amendment was adopted.

Mr. Holland offered the following additional amendment:

SEC. 4. *Be it further enacted*, That there shall be levied, assessed and collected, a tax of five per cent. upon the gross sales of property, sold by public auction in this State, excepting sales by Executors and Administrators, and all Judiciary sales;

Which was adopted.

Mr. Holland offered the following additional amendment:

Be it further enacted, That if any person or persons, shall sell or remove said goods beyond the limits of this State, without first paying the taxes imposed upon them by this act, such a sale shall be

void and of no effect, if made in this State, and any person violating this law, shall be committed to jail until the taxes are paid, and the collectors of customs are requested to aid the State in collecting said taxes;

Which was adopted.

Mr. Arnou presented the following amendment:

Strike out in the first section "sold in this State," and insert the words "brought into this State;"

Which was adopted.

Mr. Holland moved that the bill be engrossed and made the special order at 5 o'clock;

Which was adopted.

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

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, }
Tallahassee, December 2d, 1863. }

HON. E. J. VANN,

President of the Senate:

SIR—I have approved and signed the following bills and resolution, viz:

An act for the relief of D. B. Cappleman, Sheriff of Marion county;

An act for the relief of Margaret J. McKeown, widow of James A. McKeown;

An act more particularly defining the duties of Tax Assessors and Collectors of this State; and,

Resolution in relation to a day of fasting, humiliation and prayer.

Respectfully,

JOHN MILTON.

Which was read.

Also the following:

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER, }
Tallahassee, Dec. 2d, 1863. }

HON. E. J. VANN,

President of the Senate:

SIR—I respectfully recommend the following nominations for the advice and consent of the General Assembly, viz:

James A. Mason—Auctioneer for Alachua county; and,

James Caverly—Auctioneer for Wakulla county.

Very respectfully,

JOHN MILTON.

Which was read and the nominations concurred in.

The following communication was received from the House of Representatives,

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
December 2d, 1863. }

HON. E. J. VANN,

President of the Senate:

SIR—The House on yesterday, adopted the following resolution, viz:

Resolved, That the Standing Committees of the House and Senate on Military Affairs shall act as a Joint and Select Committee on all matters referred to either of said committees.

Very respectfully,

THOS. B. BAREFOOT,

Clerk of the House of Representatives.

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

Also the following,

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
December 2d, 1863. }

HON. E. J. VANN,

President of the Senate:

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

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

A Senate bill to be entitled an act in relation to forfeited bonds of criminals.

A Senate bill to be entitled an act to provide for the payment for Plats furnished the various counties, with amendment.

A Senate bill to be entitled an act to amend the election laws of this State, relative to soldiers voting.

A House bill to be entitled entitled an act further defining the duties of the Treasurer of the State.

House resolution in reference to exportation of certain articles by private enterprise, and

House resolution for the support of Way-side Homes.

Respectfully,

THOS. B. BAREFOOT,

Clerk of the House of Representatives

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

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

That the Senate appoint a Committee to act with a similar Com-

mittee on the part of the House, to provide for the expenditures which may be required during the present fiscal year.

Which was adopted.

The President appointed as said Committee Messrs Norwood, Holland and Russell, of Jefferson.

On motion 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.

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

Mr. President, Messrs. Abercrombie, Allison, Arnow, Cater, Clary, Hogue, Jones, Norwood, Roper, Scott and Taylor—12.

A quorum present.

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

Resolved, That his Excellency, the Governor, is respectfully requested to inform the Senate how many bushels of salt has been voluntarily contributed to the State for the use of the poor, and the names of those persons contributing the same, and also, how many bushels of salt has been purchased by him, or his order, for the use of the poor of this State, and what disposition has been made of the same;

Which was adopted.

On motion, the Senate bills amended by the House were taken up.

A bill to be entitled an act in reference to a day of fasting, humiliation and prayer;

The House amendment was not concurred in.

Mr. Hogue moved that a committee of three be appointed to convey the action of the Senate on the above amendment to the House;

Which was adopted.

The chair appointed as said committee, Messrs. Hogue, Abercrombie and Russell of Jefferson.

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

The House amendment was not concurred in.

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

The House amendment was concurred in.

The bill was ordered to be enrolled.

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

The Committee on Enrolled Bills find the following bill correctly enrolled, viz:

A bill to be entitled an act to incorporate the Monticello and Thomasville Railroad.

J. M. ARNOW, Chairman.

Which was read.

The orders of the day were resumed.

A bill to be entitled an act to authorize the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Sumter county to hold his office at his house,

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, Allison, Arnow, Carter, Clary, Hogue, Holland, Hopkins, Jones, King, Roper, Russell of Jefferson and Taylor—14.

Nays—None.

So the bill passed—title as stated.

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

The following communication was received from the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
December 2nd, 1863.

HON. E. J. VANN,

President of the Senate:

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

Senate bill to be entitled an act for the relief of soldiers' families and others that require assistance, with amendments.

Respectfully

THOS. B. BAREFOOT,

Clerk of the House of Representatives.

Which was read, and House amendments to Senate bill concurred in, and Senate bill ordered to be enrolled.

The rule was waived to allow the Committee on Military Affairs to make the following report:

The Standing Committee of the Senate and House of Representatives on Military Affairs, forming a Joint and Select Committee, to whom was referred so much of the Governor's message as relates to the Arsenal, begs leave to

REPORT:

That it is inexpedient at this session of the General Assembly, to

establish a Military Academy at said place, but, that the same should be taken care of by the Governor and safely kept; and that the Governor allow the Confederate States to store therein such property as they desire. They have therefore prepared the accompanying Joint Resolution, which they recommend do pass.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

EDWARD HOPKINS,
Chairman Senate Committee.
JAS. Y. JONES,
Chairman House Committee.

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

A bill to be entitled an act to declare and establish the rights of the State of Florida in certain railroads,

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

A bill to be entitled an act to authorize the sale of a certain portion of the Common School lands, to Francis M. Bryan, of Franklin County,

Was read the first time, rule waived, read the second and third times by its title, and passed over informally.

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

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, Hogue, Hopkins, Jones, Roper, Russell of Jefferson and Taylor—7.

Nays—Mr. President, Messrs. Abercrombie, Allison, Cater, King and Russell of 17th District—6.

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 the patrol laws of this State, Was read the first time, rule waived, and read the second time.

Mr. Allison presented the following amendment:

That the militia laws of this State be and the same are hereby extended to include all male citizens of the State within the ages of sixteen and sixty, and that all the present militia beats be and they are hereby abolished; and that it shall be the duty of the County Commissioners to re-organize the same anew, as provided now by law, into beats, not exceeding forty persons in each beat;

Mr. Hogue called the gentleman to order.

The chair decided that the amendment was not germane to the bill. Mr. Allison appealed from the decision of the chair.

The yeas and nays being called for by Messrs. Allison and Hogue. The vote was:

Yeas—Messrs. Abercrombie, Carter, Cater, Clary, Hogue, Hopkins, Jones, Norwood, Roper, Russell of 17th District and Scott—11.

Nays—Messrs. Allison, Arnow, Cooper, Holland, King, Russell of Jefferson and Taylor—7.

So the decision of the chair was sustained.

Mr. Holland presented the following amendment:

Sec. 2. That the provisions of this bill shall apply to such counties as may see fit to adopt the same, excepting Jefferson county;

Which was lost.

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

The vote was:

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

Nays—Messrs. Hopkins, Norwood and Roper—3.

So the bill passed—title as stated.

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

On motion, the following bill which was passed over informally was taken up.

A bill to be entitled an act to authorize the sale of a certain portion of the common School Lands to Francis M. Bryan of Franklin County.

Which was read the third time, and put on its passage,

The vote was:

Yeas—Mr. President, Messrs. Abercrombie, Arnow, Cater, Clary, Cooper, Hogue, Holland, Jones, Roper, Russell of Jefferson, Russell of 17th District, Scott and Taylor—14.

Nays—Messrs. Allison and King—2.

So the bill passed—title as stated.

Ordered to be certified to the House of Representatives.

A bill to be entitled an act to regulate prices.

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

Pending the discussion of the bill, the hour arrived for the action of the Senate on the special order for 5 o'clock.

Mr. Holland moved to postpone the special order until the present subject is disposed of,

Which was adopted.

The discussion of the bill was resumed.

Mr. Holland moved that the Senator from the 7th District be allowed to offer an amendment on the third reading of the bill.

Which was lost.

Mr. Norwood moved to waive the rule, and place the bill back upon its second reading,

Which was lost.

The question being upon the passage of the bill,

The vote was:

Yeas—Messrs. Allison, Cooper, Hogue, Holland, Jones, Russell of 17th District, Scott and Smith—8.

Nays—Mr. President, Messrs. Abercrombie, Arnow, Carter, Cater, Clary, Hopkins, King, Norwood, Roper, Russell of Jefferson and Taylor—12.

So the bill was lost.

Mr. Norwood moved that the bill be spread upon the Journal,

Which was adopted.

A bill to be entitled an act to regulate prices.

SEC. 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Florida in General Assembly convened, That from and after the passage of this act, a tax shall be levied and collected, upon all articles sold in this State, over the schedule price fixed by the Commissioners for the same, to the amount of the difference between the schedule price and that at which the article was sold; said tax to be paid by the seller.*

SEC. 2. *Be it further enacted, That it shall be the duty of the tax collectors of this State, to collect said tax and use such means as are now provided for by law for the collection of taxes, and shall pay the same into the Treasury, to be expended for the benefit of soldiers' families and others who require assistance.*

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, viz:

A bill to be entitled an act to levy a tax on blockade or imported liquors.

JAMES ABERCROMBIE, Chairman.

Which was read.

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

THURSDAY, December 3d, 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, Allison, Arnow, Cater, Clary, Hogue, Holland, Hopkins, Jones, King, Roper, Russell of Jefferson, Russell of 17th District, Scott and Taylor—16.

A quorum present.

The journal of yesterday was read, corrected and approved.

Mr. Hogue moved that the bill relative to interest on judgments, be first taken up among the orders of the day;

Which was adopted.

Mr. Hopkins moved that a bill to be entitled an act to declare and establish the rights of the State of Florida in certain railroads, be placed second among the orders of the day; and;

That a bill to be entitled an act to prevent the distilling of spirituous liquors in this State, be placed third among the orders of the day;

Which was adopted.

Mr. Russell, of Jefferson, presented the following resolution:

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Florida in General Assembly convened, That his Excellency, the Governor, be notified by a joint committee, that this General Assembly have resolved to adjourn on Friday, the 4th inst., at 12 m.

Which was adopted.

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

The chair appointed as a committee to notify the Governor, Messrs. Russell of Jefferson, Hopkins and Cooper.

Mr. Holland presented the following resolution:

Resolved, That as each bill or resolution has passed the Senate, the President shall send the same to the House, if the same require their action, by a committee;

Which was adopted.

The President appointed as a committee for the above purpose, Messrs. Holland, King and Russell of 17th District.

The Committee on Enrolled Bills, find the following bills and resolution correctly enrolled.

A bill to be entitled an act for the relief of Albert Hyer;

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

A bill to be entitled an act to provide for the relief of soldiers and others that require assistance;

A bill to be entitled an act to legalize the acts of Samuel Lowe, acting Clerk of the Circuit Court;

A bill to be entitled an act in relation to forfeited bonds of criminals;