

TUESDAY, December 6, 1864.

The Senate met pursuant to adjournment.

The President in the chair.

A quorum present.

Prayer by Rev. E. L. T. Blake.

The further reading of yesterday's journal was dispensed with and the journal approved.

The Committee on Taxation and Revenue, to which was referred a bill to be entitled, An act to provide for the expenses of the State of Florida and to issue bonds, have had the same under consideration; and beg leave to

REPORT:

That it is believed that the best policy that could now be adopted, in regard to the finances of the State, would be the one that will prevent an increase of her indebtedness, or at least, that which will increase her indebtedness as little as possible.

That the plan proposed by the bill referred to the committee of issuing \$500,000 in bonds, will only increase the indebtedness of the State, without any corresponding benefit, for it is not believed that the bonds will sell for more than par; and while the State does not diminish her debt, she actually increases it to the extent of the interest on the bonds, to wit: \$30,000.

That it is not believed that capitalists will invest the treasury notes of the State of Florida in the bonds proposed to be issued, and therefore that the amount of State treasury notes now in circulation will not be reduced.

That admitting that State treasury notes would be invested in their bonds, the State would be but substituting a debt bearing interest at the rate of \$30,000 per annum, payable in specie, for a debt that now bears no interest.

That it is not sound policy to borrow money on long time, to pay debts made at this time.

That it will be less onerous on the people to pay a tax now sufficient to defray the necessary expenses of the State government, than it will be in time of peace, when valuation will return to a specie basis.

That it is estimated that the taxable property of the State upon a valuation in 1860, will not be less than \$50,000,000, and may perhaps amount to over \$60,000,000, and therefore that a tax of one *per centum* will raise a revenue of five or six hundred thousand dollars—an amount amply sufficient, together with revenue that will be received from the sale of lands and other sources, to defray the ex-

enses of the State government, and to create, in all probability, a respectable sinking fund.

That the treasury notes now on hand, to wit: \$311,214 12, will, in all probability, be sufficient to carry on the finances of the State until the tax shall be collected, and therefore, that it will probably be unnecessary to authorize any further issue thereof.

That it is not believed that capitalists will invest in the bonds proposed to be issued in an amount sufficient to raise the funds necessary to defray the necessary expenses of the State government, and should they fail to do so, the State will be left without funds to carry on the government, as the other sources of revenue are comparatively small, and are wholly insufficient for that purpose.

That should all the bonds be sold at par immediately, it will be the same as if the State had borrowed \$500,000, payable twenty years hence, and as that sum would not now be worth to the State, at the highest estimate, more than \$50,000, it would be equivalent to pledging the faith of the State to pay \$500,000 and interest for the use of \$50,000, which would be to the greatest extent ruinous to the finances and credit of the State.

Believing, therefore, that the policy suggested by the bill referred to the committee, if adopted, would be in the highest degree unsound and ruinous, and that the people of the State are willing and able to pay a tax sufficient, together with other sources of revenue to the State, to defray the necessary expenses of the State, the following substitute to said bill is respectfully offered for the consideration of the Senate:

A bill to be entitled, An act to increase the State tax of the State of Florida.

SEC. 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Florida in General Assembly convened,* That for the year eighteen hundred and sixty-five, there shall be levied, assessed and collected, a tax of one *per centum* upon all the property in the State now by law subject to taxation, and said tax shall be levied, assessed and collected at the same places and in the same manner that the State tax is now by law levied, assessed and collected.

SEC. 2. *Be it further enacted,* That the value of all the property taxed by the laws of this State, shall be assessed on the basis of the market value of the same or similar property in the State, in the year eighteen hundred and sixty.

SEC. 3. *Be it further enacted,* That said tax shall be collected on or before the first Monday in September, eighteen hundred and sixty-five, and that one-half of the same shall be paid and collected in treasury notes of the State of Florida.

SEC. 4. *Be it further enacted,* That all laws and parts of laws inconsistent with the provisions of this act be, and the same are hereby repealed.

Respectfully submitted,

E. J. VANN,
D. P. HOGUE,
J. M. ARNOW.

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

The Committee on Engrossed Bills report the following bill as correctly engrossed :

"A bill to be entitled, An act in relation to the commissions of executors, guardians, curators and administrators .

E. J. VANN, Ch'n.

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

The Committee on Elections, to whom was referred.

A bill to be entitled, An act to amend an act entitled An act, to amend the Election laws of this State as regards the mode of voting and for other purposes,

Have had the same under consideration, and recommend it do not pass.

JAS. L. KING, Ch'n.

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

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred House resolution in regard to Gen. Finegan's Brigade, respectfully ask leave to make the following

REPORT:

That they have had the same under consideration, and recommend the passage of the resolution, with the following amendments :

Strike out in the preamble from the word are, in the second line, to the word weak in the fifth line, and add to the last clause the following words :

That, his Excellency the Governor, be requested to furnish our Senators and Representatives in the Confederate Congress with a copy of these resolutions.

All which is respectfully submitted,

JAMES G. COOPER,
Chairman Military Committee.

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

The Committee on Enrolled Bills have examined the following acts and resolution and found them correctly enrolled :

An act to facilitate the transaction of business in the Quartermaster-General's office.

An act to protect the citizens of Florida.

An act in relation to estates in this State.

Joint resolution authorizing and requiring the Attorney General

to print a general index of the Supreme Court and for other purposes.

J. M. ARNOW, Ch'n.

Which was read.

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

House bill to amend An act to be entitled, An act to amend the election laws of this State as regards voting,

Was read third time and put on its passage.

The vote was:

Yeas—Mr. President, Messrs. Arnow, Clary, Duncan, Hogue, Hopkins and Vann—7.

Nays—Messrs. Abercrombie, Cooper, King, Russell of Jefferson and Scott—5.

So the bill was passed—title as stated.

Ordered to be certified to the House of Representatives.

Bill to be entitled, An act to provide for the expenses of the State of Florida and to issue bonds, with substitute as reported by Committee on Taxation and Revenue.

Mr. Vann moved that the substitute be received in lieu of the original bill.

The yeas and nays having been called for,

The following was the vote :

Yeas—Messrs. Arnow, Hogue, Hopkins and Vann—4.

Nays—Mr. President, Messrs. Abercrombie, Clary, Cooper, Duncan, Holland, King, Russell of Jefferson and Scott—9.

So the substitute was not received.

On motion, Mr. Russell was permitted to withdraw the bill under consideration.

Bill relative to the commissions of executors, guardians, curators and administrators,

Was read a third time and put on its passage.

The vote was :

Yeas—Mr. President, Messrs. Abercrombie, Arnow, Clary, Cooper, Hogue, Holland, King, Scott and Vann—10.

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

So the bill passed—title as stated.

Ordered to be certified to the House of Representatives.

House resolution asking that the Florida Brigade in Virginia be sent to the Department of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida,

Was read and put on its passage.

The vote was :

Yeas—Mr. President, Messrs. Abercrombie, Arnow, Clary, Cooper, Duncan, Hogue, Holland, King, Russell of Jefferson, Scott and Vann—12.

Nays—None.

So the resolution was adopted.

Ordered to be certified to the House of Representatives.

House bill relative to the fees of the clerk of the Supreme Court,

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

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

SEC. 2. *Be it further enacted*, That the Sheriffs or Jailors of this State be allowed \$2 per day fees for taking care of prisoners, instead of \$1, which is the fee now allowed by law ;

Which was adopted.

On motion, the rule was waived and the bill read a third time and put on its passage.

The vote was :

Yeas—Messrs. Abercrombie, Arnow, Clary, Cooper, Duncan, Hogue, Holland, Hopkins, King, Russell of Jefferson, Scott and Vann—12.

Nays—Mr. President—1.

So the bill passed.

Ordered to be certified to the House of Representatives.

A committee from the House appeared at the bar of the Senate and informed that body that the House had adopted the following amendments to the House bill for the relief of soldiers' families :

Insert after the word "returns" in the 2d section, 3d line, the words "under oath."

After the word "of" at the end of the 3d line, 2d section, insert "number of persons receiving the benefit of this act."

SEC. 7 *Be it further enacted*, That all laws or parts of laws conflicting with this Act be and the same are hereby repealed,

And refused to adopt the following amendments to said bill :

Mr. Arnow moved to amend by inserting in the 1st line, 4th section, after the word Probate, "Agent."

Mr. Allison proposed the following as an additional section :

SEC. 6. *Be it further enacted*, That it shall, immediately after the passage of this act, be the duty of the Justices of the Peace of the several counties in this State to proceed to examine into the pecuniary condition of the applicants for relief under the same, and make report thereof in detail, under oath, to the Judges of Probate of their respective counties, whose duty it shall be to lay the same before the Board of County Commissioners at the first meeting thereafter, and if approved by said Board, the same shall be placed on the list of beneficiaries of this act ;

Which was adopted.

Mr. Holland moved to amend the bill by adding as a 5th section :

SEC. 5. *Be it further enacted*, That the Governor is hereby authorized to appoint a General Agent for each militia district in this State ; and said agent shall give bond in such sum as the Governor shall direct for the faithful performance of his duties ; and said

Agent shall purchase, collect, distribute and perform such duties as the Governor shall require of him or them for the purposes of discharging with promptness and efficiency the purposes of this act. And each of said Agents shall receive the sum of two hundred and fifty dollars per quarter and five hundred dollars per year, in full compensation for mileage and traveling expenses; and said compensation shall be paid by warrant of the Comptroller, issued upon an order of the Governor, and the Treasurer shall pay the same.

House resolution relative to the Florida Brigade commanded by Brig. Gen. Finley,

Was read and placed upon its passage.

The vote was:

Yeas—Mr. President, Messrs. Abercrombie, Arnow, Clary, Cooper, Duncan, Hogue, Holland, Hopkins, King, Russell of Jefferson, Scott and Vann—13.

Nays—none.

So the resolution passed—title as stated.

Ordered to be certified to the House of Representatives.

House resolution relative to the printing of the Soldiers' relief bill,

Was read and on motion, laid on the table for the present.

House bill for the relief of soldiers' families.

Mr. Russel of Jefferson moved that the Senate recede from its amendments;

Which was adopted.

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

THREE O'CLOCK, P. M.

The Senate resumed its session.

The President in the chair.

A quorum present.

The following communication was received from the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
December —, 1864. }

Hon. A. K. ALLISON,

President of the Senate:

SIR: The House of Representatives has this day adopted the following resolution, viz:

Resolution relative to adjournment.

Very respectfully,

WM. FORSYTH BYNUM,
Clerk of the House of Representatives.

Which was read.

The yeas and nays having been called for on the adoption of the resolution,

The vote was :

Yeas—Mr. President, Messrs. Abercrombie, Clary, Duncan, Hogue, Hopkins, King, Russell of Jefferson and Scott—9.

Nays—Messrs. Arnow, Cooper, Holland and Vann—4.

So the resolution was adopted.

Ordered to be certified to the House of Representatives.

The Committee on Confederate Relations beg leave to

REPORT :

That they have had under consideration that part of the Governor's Message relating thereto, and are pleased to state that his views reflect the sentiments of the people of Florida.

Since the meeting of the last Legislature, the war for our subjugation by the fanatical North has been pressed with unabated and unusual fury. This is to be deprecated, particularly when the war exists between a people who have hitherto pointed with equal pride to the legacy bequeathed us by our sires of the Revolutionary struggle. But we have no alternative but to defend our rights and the institutions of our fathers, in obedience to the prevailing law in the breast of man, enthroned there by the Great Judge of men and nations. The dominant fanatical party North have rebuked every sentiment and effort towards peace from us and the peace party in the Northern States, and seemed to have evoked the inspiration of the Prince of Darkness, that they might be instigated to deeds of brutality hitherto unknown in the dark catalogue of national crime.

They have surpassed the science of all European nations, astounded the world, and enabled barbarism to rejoice in triumph over civilization, in contemplating the spirit in which they have conducted this war, on the alleged grounds, for the establishment of the Union and constitutional liberty.

The re-election of Abraham Lincoln to the Presidency of the United States has dispelled every hope of peace, upon any terms consistent with our rights and honorable to us as a people, and the only hope for the establishment of our rights and constitutional liberty on the continent of America, is in the determined and successful efforts of the Southern people, to satisfy the North; and all nations of the world, that it is impossible to either reconstruct the Union or subjugate us at the point of the bayonet.

Your committee therefore recommend the adoption of the following preamble and resolutions.

J. M. ARNOW, Ch'n.

RESOLUTION on Confederate Relations.

WHEREAS, That in the re-election of Abraham Lincoln by the Northern people, they have pledged themselves to continue the war for the emancipation and arming our slaves against us—for the confiscation of our property—for the destruction of our homes—the murder of our citizens—the burning of our cities and the degradation of the white race and the exaltation of the black race,

Be it therefore resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Florida in General Assembly convened, 1st, That as all our sentiments and efforts towards peace have been spurned by the Northern people, as signs of weakness on our part, we cannot, consistently with our dignity and the interest of our cause, make peace propositions to them, but are, as we have ever been, anxious that this war should come to a close upon grounds securing our rights as a separate nationality.

2d. That we pledge our lives, our property and our sacred honor to our sister Confederate States to stand by them to the termination of the strife in resisting the army and Government of the United States, and would prefer annihilation to reunion with them.

Which was read and resolutions unanimously adopted.

The following communication was received from the House of Representatives :

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
December 6th, 1864. }

HON. A. K. ALLISON,

President of the Senate :

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

House bill to be entitled, An act for the relief of Benjamin J. Hagler, of Hillsborough county ;

Senate bill to be entitled, An act in relation to the recording of deeds and other papers in Lafayette county.

Also, adopted :

Joint resolution relative to the examination of the offices of the Treasurer and Comptroller.

Very respectfully,

WM. FORSYTH BYNUM,
Clerk of the House of Representatives.

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

Also, the following :

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
December 6th, 1864. }

HON. A. K. ALLISON,

President of the Senate :

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

House bill to be entitled, An act to amend an act to permit the establishment of distilleries, and the distilling of whiskey or other spirituous liquors ;

House bill to be entitled, An act to extend the term of the Solicitors of the several judicial circuits in this State to the first day of January, 1866, and for other purposes.

Very respectfully,

WM. FORSYTH BYNUM.

Clerk of the House of Representatives.

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

The orders of the day were resumed.

House bill to extend the terms of the Solicitors of the several judicial circuits in this State to the first day of January, 1866, and for other purposes,

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

House resolution in relation to the examination of the offices of the Treasurer and Comptroller,

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

The vote was :

Yeas—Mr. President, Messrs. Abercrombie, Arnow, Clary, Cooper, Duncan, Hogue, Holland, King, Scott and Vann—11.

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

So the resolution passed—title as stated.

Ordered to be certified to the House of Representatives.

House bill for the relief of Benj. J. Hagler,

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

The vote was :

Yeas—Messrs. Abercrombie, Arnow, Clary, Holland, Hopkins and Vann—6.

Nays—Mr. President, Messrs. Cooper, Duncan, Hogue, King, Russell of Jefferson and Scott—7.

So the bill was lost.

Ordered to be certified to the House of Representatives.

The following communication was received from the House of Representatives :

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
December 6th, 1864. }

HON. A. K. ALLISON,

President of the Senate :

SIR: The House has this day adopted the following resolution, viz :

Resolution to appoint a Committee of three to act with a similar committee on part of the Senate relative to the Appropriation Bill.

Pursuant to said resolution Messrs. Avery, Eppes and Bates were appointed a Committee on the part of the House.

Very Respectfully,

WM. FORSYTH BYNUM,

Clerk of the House of Representatives.

Which was read and Senate appointed as similar Committee Messrs. Hogue, Hopkins and Vann.

House bill to amend An act to prevent the establishment of distilleries and the distilling of whiskey or other spirituous liquors,

Was read first time, rule waived, read a second time by title.

Mr. Hogue offered the following amendment:

Amend by striking out the words "to prevent the establishment of distilleries and the distilling of whiskey or other spirituous liquors, approved Dec. 15th, 1862," and insert "to prevent the distilling of spirituous liquors in this State, approved December 4th, 1863; also,

Amend the title of the act so that it shall read: "An act to amend an act to prevent the distilling of spirituous liquors in this State, approved December 4th, 1863;"

Which was adopted.

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

The vote was:

Yeas—Messrs. Abercrombie, Clary, Duncan, Hogue, Hopkins and Russell of Jefferson—6.

Nays—Mr. President, Messrs. Arnow, Cooper, Holland, King, Scott and Vann—7.

So the bill was lost.

Ordered to be certified to the House of Representatives.

House resolution for the relief of Wm. H. Durrance, W. S. Spencer and James J. Ward, Sheriffs,

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

The following was the vote:

Yeas—Messrs. Abercrombie, Arnow, Clary, Duncan, Hogue, Holland, Hopkins, Scott and Vann—9.

Nays—Mr. President, Messrs. Cooper, King and Russell of Jefferson—4.

So the resolution passed—title as stated.

Ordered to be certified to the House of Representatives.

A committee from the House appeared at the bar of the Senate and stated that the House had amended the Senate bill to further define the duties of the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Board.

On motion, the House amendments were concurred in, and Senate bill ordered to be enrolled.

House bill to appropriate a fund for clothing of troops from

Florida in the Confederate service, and to purchase and distribute cards,

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

The vote was :

Yeas—Mr. President, Messrs. Abercrombie, Arnow, Clary, Cooper, Duncan, Hogue, Holland, Hopkins, King, Russell of Jefferson, Scott and Vann—13.

Nays—None.

So the bill passed—title as stated.

Ordered to be certified to the House of Representatives.

House bill to amend An act to incorporate the city of Lake City, approved Jan. 15th, 1859,

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

The vote was :

Yeas—Mr. President, Messrs. Abercrombie, Arnow, Clary, Cooper, Duncan, Hogue, Holland, Hopkins, King, Russell of Jefferson, Scott and Vann—13.

Nays—none.

So the bill passed—title as stated.

Ordered to be certified to the House of Representatives.

House bill for the relief of David A. Friar, Tax Assessor and Collector of Alachua county,

Was read a second time.

Mr. Hopkins offered the following amendment :

Be it further enacted, That the Treasurer be instructed to pay warrant, No. 611, issued by the Comptroller for fiscal year 1861, under an Act to provide for payment of Florida Volunteers, to M. Livicord, the present holder of said warrant, and all claims which are outstanding that were provided for by said Act ;

Which was adopted.

On motion, the bill was referred to the Committee on Propositions and Grievances.

House bill to authorize the administrator of the estate of Anna L. Casey to make title to certain lots in Columbia County,

Was read third time and put on its passage.

The vote was :

Yeas—Mr. President, Messrs. Abercrombie, Arnow, Clary, Cooper, Duncan, Hogue, Holland, Hopkins, King, Russell of Jefferson, Scott and Vann—13.

Nays—None.

So the bill was passed—title as stated.

Ordered to be certified to the House of Representatives.

House bill to amend An act to suspend the collection of taxes in counties held or controlled by the enemy,

Was read a second time.

Mr. Duncan presented the following amendment :

SEC. 3. *Be it further enacted*, That all persons who have voted in the counties where they are residing, shall be considered citizens and therefore not entitled to the benefits of this act ;

Which was adopted .

The rule was waived and the bill read a third time by title and put on its passage.

The vote was :

Yeas—Mr. President, Messrs. Arnow, Clary, Hogue, Holland, Hopkins, Scott and Vann—8.

Nays—Messrs. Abercrombie, Cooper, Duncan, King and Russell of Jefferson—5.

So the bill passed—title as stated.

Ordered to be certified to the House of Representatives.

House bill in relation to the public defence,

Was read a second time.

Mr. Vann moved to amend by inserting after the word "works," in 5th line, the words "in this State."

Adopted.

Mr. Holland moved to insert the enacting clause in the beginning of the 2d and 3d sections.

Adopted.

On motion, the rule was waived, and the bill read a third time and put on its passage.

The vote was :

Yeas—Mr. President, Messrs. Abercrombie, Clary, Cooper, Duncan, Holland, Hopkins, King and Russell of Jefferson—9.

Nays—Messrs. Arnow, Hogue and Vann—3.

So the bill passed—title as stated.

Ordered to be certified to the House of Representatives.

House bill to amend the laws providing for the stay of executions,

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

On motion, the rule was waived to allow the Committee on Enrolled Bills to report.

The Committee on Enrolled Bills have examined "An act in relation to the recording of deeds and other papers in Lafayette county," and have found the same correctly enrolled.

J. M. ARNOW, Ch'n.

Which was read.

On motion, the resolution relative to Confederate officials and clerks was taken up and referred to a special committee of three.

The President appointed as said committee, Messrs. Arnow, Hopkins and Cooper.

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

WEDNESDAY, December 7th, 1864.

The Senate met pursuant to adjournment.

The President in the chair.

A quorum present.

Prayer by Rev. E. L. T. Blake.

On motion the further reading of yesterday's journal was dispensed with and the journal approved.

The President declared motions in order.

On motion of Mr. Hopkins, the vote on the House bill to amend An act to suspend the collection of taxes in counties held or controlled by the enemy, was reconsidered.

On motion of Mr. Duncan, the bill was laid on the table for this session.

Mr. Arnow moved that the names of the Senators and their Post Offices be spread upon the minutes ;

Which was adopted.

Senators of the 13th General Assembly.

1st District	—James Abercrombie, Pollard, Ala.
2d "	—E. L. Cater, Burnt Corn, Ala.
3d "	—J. D. Clary, Almirante, Fla.
4th "	—W. B. Jones, Vernon, Fla.
5th "	—D. P. Holland, Chattahoochee, Fla.
6th "	—Jesse Norwood, Marianna, Fla.
7th "	—A. K. Allison, Quincy, Fla.
8th "	—D. P. Hogue, Tallahassee, Fla.
9th "	—
10th "	—J. S. Russell, Waukeenah, Jefferson Co., Fla.
11th "	—E. J. Vann, Madison, Fla.
12th "	—W. J. J. Duncan, Jasper, Fla.
13th "	—J. L. King, Blount's Ferry, Fla.
14th "	—J. M. Arnow, Gainesville, Fla.
15th "	—J. G. Cooper, Newnansville, Fla.
16th "	—Edward Hopkins, Lake City, Fla.
17th "	—Thos. T. Russell, Pilatka, Fla.
18th "	—John Scott, Ocala, Fla.