

EXTRAORDINARY SESSION.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1873.

At the hour of 10 A. M. the President of the Senate took the chair and called the Senate to order, and announced that it had convened in Extraordinary Session by virtue of the following Proclamation:

PROCLAMATION

CONVENING THE LEGISLATURE IN EXTRAORDINARY SESSION.

By authority vested in me by the Constitution of this State, I do issue this my Proclamation, convening the Legislature in Extraordinary Session, to meet at their respective Chambers in the Capitol at Tallahassee, at ten o'clock A. M. on the 20th day of the present month, to take into consideration such matters as may be laid before them by the Executive.

Done at the Capitol, in the city of Tallahassee, on this nineteenth day of February, 1873.

[SEAL.] IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State to be affixed.

OSSIAN B. HART, Governor.

By the Governor. Attest:

SAMUEL B. McLIN,
Secretary of State.

The roll was called and the following Senators answered to their names:

Messrs. Billings, Fortner, Ginn, Hill, Jenkins, Knight, Long, McAuley, McCaskill, McKinnon, Meacham, Oliveros, Pope, Sturtevant, and Sutton—15.

A quorum present.

Prayer by the Chaplain.

Mr. Jenkins moved that a committee of two be appointed to notify the Assembly that the Senate had organized, and was ready to proceed to business;

Which was agreed to.

The Chair appointed Messrs. Jenkins and Oliveros.

The committee returned and reported that they had discharged the duty, and were discharged.

Mr. Meacham offered the following resolution:

Resolved by the Senate, the Assembly concurring, That a

committee of two from the Senate and three from the Assembly be appointed to notify his Excellency the Governor that the legislature has convened in extraordinary session, is organized, and ready to receive any communication he may desire to make.

Which was adopted.

The Chair appointed Messrs. Meacham and McKinnon as a committee on the part of the Senate.

Mr. Jenkins offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Sergeant-at-arms is hereby authorized to procure the necessary stationery for the use of the Senate, to be furnished Senators on their requisition.

The yeas and nays were ordered with the following result:

Yeas—Messrs. Dennis, Fortner, Hill, Jenkins, Long, McAnley, Meacham, Pearce, Pope, and Sutton—10.

Nays—Messrs. Billings, Ginn, Knight, McCaskill, McKinnon, Oliveros, Potter, and Sturtevant—8.

So the resolution was adopted.

Mr. Meacham moved that the Secretary of the Senate be authorized to employ an assistant;

Which was not agreed to.

The committee on the part of the Senate to notify the Governor that the Legislature is organized returned and reported that the Governor would communicate with both Houses immediately.

The following message was received from his Excellency the Governor:

EXECUTIVE OFFICE, }
TALLAHASSEE, Fla., February 20, 1873. }

To the Legislature:

GENTLEMEN OF THE SENATE: Having, by authority vested in me as Chief Executive by the Constitution of this State, convened your honorable body in Extraordinary Session, it remains for me to state to you, in accordance with the same Constitution, the particular business upon which you are convened. And in stating it I beg to assure you that nothing short of what I consider the paramount interest of the State at large, as well as the constituencies which you respectively represent, could have determined me to this step, knowing as I do your strong and very reasonable desire to be about your own private affairs, and your patriotic wish to save the State the expense of a single unnecessary day's session.

The sole purpose for which you have been convened, then, is the consideration of the financial measure herewith submitted to you, which is the same as that which passed the Senate at the late session by a handsome vote, and which was understood to have a majority in its favor in the Assembly, but which failed

only through want of time to pass it through its readings before the arrival of the previously fixed hour of adjournment.

It is well known that there is a large amount of bonds of the State now under hypothecation in New York for less than half their value, and that interest is accumulating upon them in a compound ratio, and that these bonds have in reality been long since forfeited to the holder of them.

If this measure is adopted these bonds can be lifted from hypothecation, thus saving the State a very large amount. But if they are allowed to remain as they now are, the forfeiture may be enforced before the next regular session, and the State forced to redeem them dollar for dollar, principal and compound interest, before she can recover her financial credit.

It is also universally admitted that the present scrip system is only sinking the State deeper and deeper in financial ruin every day, and that unless it can be checked, and not only checked but put an end to, the financial doom of our State is sealed.

The main features of this measure are such as in my opinion will recommend it to every sincere lover of his State, as soon as he thoroughly understands them. The bonds provided for can not be hypothecated, and cannot be sold for less than eighty cents on the dollar, *net*, which, if done, will raise all other State securities to the same standard.

One half of these bonds are to be used to absorb other bonds of the State, so that no additional burdens will fall upon the people except to the extent of the ready money placed in the treasury for current expenses, until the cash taxes begin to come in. And even this, though an apparent addition to taxation, is a real benefit, for when the State can pay its bills in cash, those bills will be scarcely more than half as heavy as they are under the scrip system, so that this policy will result in a daily reduction of current expenses, and will pave the way to a permanent reduction of taxation at your next regular session.

If my views are incorrect, your wisdom, to which no one can bow with more sincere respect than I, will correct me.

Recommending this important matter to your calm and wise consideration,

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
OSSIAN B. HART, Governor.

HON. M. L. STEARNS,
President of the Senate.

Mr. Jenkins moved to refer the Governor's message and the accompanying bill to the Committee on Finance and Taxation. Which was agreed to.

On motion of Mr. Meacham the Senate took a recess until 3 o'clock P. M.

THREE O'CLOCK P. M.

The Senate re-assembled.

The Lieutenant-Governor in the chair.

The roll was called and the following Senators answered to their names:

Messrs. Crawford, Dennis, Eagan, Fortner, Ginn, Hill, Jenkins, McAuley, McKinnon, Meacham, Oliveros, Pope, Potter, Sturtevant, and Sutton—15.

Mr. Crawford moved that Mr. Ginn be excused for the remainder of the session;

Which was agreed to.

Mr. Dennis asked leave to introduce a bill to amend section twenty-two of An act for the Assessment and Collection of Revenue in this State.

Mr. Oliveros objected, and the bill was ruled out.

The following message was received from the Assembly:

ASSEMBLY HALL,
TALLAHASSEE, Fla., February 20, 1873. }

Hon. M. L. Stearns, President of the Senate:

SIR: I am directed by the Assembly to inform the Senate that the Assembly has this day adopted—

The Joint Resolution herein;

Also:

A bill to be entitled An act Relating to the Indebtedness of the State.

Very respectfully,

H. S. HARMON,
Clerk of the Assembly.

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

Mr. Oliveros called up Assembly Concurrent Resolution in regard to destroying certain scrip and useless papers in the Treasurer's office.

Mr. Jenkins offered the following amendment to Assembly Concurrent Resolution: "That the committee shall make a schedule of the scrip destroyed by them, designating each piece of scrip by its several numbers, date, and amount, and shall deposit the schedule with the State Treasurer;"

Which was adopted.

The resolution as amended was adopted.

Mr. Meacham called up Assembly Bill No. —:

To be entitled An act Relating to the Indebtedness of the State.

On motion of Mr. Oliveros, the rules were unanimously suspended and the bill was read first time by its title.

On motion of Mr. Potter the rules were unanimously suspended and the bill was read the second time.

On motion of Mr. Meacham the rules were unanimously suspended, the bill read the third time, and put upon its passage.

Upon the question—Shall the bill pass?

The vote was—

Yeas—Messrs. Dennis, Fortner, Hill, Jenkins, McAuley, McCaskill, McKinnon, Meacham, Pearce, Pope, Potter, Sturtevant, and Sutton—13.

Nays—Messrs. Crawford, Knight, and Oliveros—3.

So the bill passed, title as stated.

The following message was received from the Governor:

EXECUTIVE OFFICE,
TALLAHASSEE, Fla., February 20, 1873. }

To the Legislature:

GENTLEMEN OF THE SENATE: In addition to the subject laid before your honorable body in my message of this date, I desire to call your attention to the matter of the appropriation of funds rendered necessary by the present Extraordinary Session, and such further appropriations as you may consider conducive to the welfare of the State.

Very respectfully,

O. B. HART, Governor.

Hon. M. L. STEARNS,
President of the Senate.

Which was read.

Mr. Potter offered the following:

Resolved, That the Senate Committee on Appropriations ascertain the amount necessary to be appropriated for the payment of the members and attaches of the Senate in this extra session, and meet the Appropriation Committee of the House in joint session to prepare a bill for the Legislature, which shall be reported this day at 10 o'clock A. M.

Which was read.

The yeas and nays were ordered on the adoption of the resolution and were—

Yeas—Messrs. Crawford, Dennis, Fortner, Hill, Jenkins, McAuley, McKinnon, Meacham, Pearce, Pope, Potter, Sturtevant, and Sutton—13.

Nays—Messrs. Knight, McCaskill, and Oliveros—3.

So the resolution was adopted.

On motion of Mr. Oliveros, the Senate adjourned until tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock.