

The doors being opened Mr. Dennis moved that the Senate adjourn until to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock ;

Which was agreed to, and the Senate was declared adjourned accordingly.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1875.

The Senate met pursuant to adjournment.

The President *pro tem.* in the chair.

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

Mr. President, Messrs. Brantley, Cottrell, Crawford, Dennis, Durkee, Hendry, Knight, Long, Lykes, McAuley, McKinnon, Meacham, Oliveros, Osgood, Parlin, Smith, Sturtevant, and Wallace—19.

A quorum present.

Prayer by the Chaplain.

Reading of the Journal.

Mr. Meacham moved that the further reading of the Journal be dispensed with ;

Which was agreed to, and the Journal was corrected and approved.

Mr. Johnson offered the following resolution :

Resolved by the Senate, the Assembly concurring, That the present session of the Legislature adjourn *sine die* on Monday, the 22d inst., at 12 o'clock meridian.

Which was received and placed among the orders of the day.

Under a suspension of the rule Mr. Knight introduced Senate Bill No. 65 :

A bill to be entitled An act in Relation to the School and Seminary Fund ;

Which was received and placed among the orders of the day.

Under a suspension of the rule Mr. Dennis introduced Senate Bill No. 66 :

A bill to be entitled An act to Provide a General Law Authorizing the Establishment of Ferries ;

Which was received and placed among the orders of the day.

Under a suspension of the rule Mr. Hendry introduced Senate Bill No. 67 :

A bill to be entitled An act Defining the Boundaries of Certain Counties therein mentioned ;

Which was received and placed among the orders of the day.

The resolution offered by Mr. Johnson was taken up and read.

Mr. Oliveros moved that, in lieu thereof, the Assembly concurrent resolution on the same subject be concurred in.

Mr. Lykes moved to lay the whole matter on the table ;
On which the yeas and nays were called with the following
result :

Those voting in the affirmative were—

Messrs. Dennis, Durkee, Howell, Johnson, Lykes, Parlin, and
Smith—7.

Those voting in the negative were—

Mr. President, Messrs. Brantley, Cottrell, Crawford, Hendry,
Hill, Knight, Long, McAuley, McKinnon, Meacham, Oliveros,
Osgood, Pope, Sturtevant, and Wallace—16.

So the resolution was not laid on the table.

Mr. Meacham moved to amend by striking out the word
“twenty-fourth” and inserting in lieu thereof the word “eight-
teenth.”

Mr. Long moved an amendment to the amendment by sub-
stituting “twenty-second” for the word “eighteenth.”

Mr. Parlin moved to postpone the subject for one week ;

Which was not agreed to.

Mr. Parlin moved to postpone for five days ;

Which was not agreed to.

The following messages were received from the Assembly :

ASSEMBLY HALL,
TALLAHASSEE, Fla., February 12, 1875. }

Hon. A. L. McCaskill, President pro tem. of the Senate :

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

Senate Bill No. 11 :

An act to Authorize Married Women to Convey their Sepa-
rate Estate, and Release Dower by Attorney ;

Senate Bill No. 48 :

An act Fixing the Times for Holding the Circuit Court in
the Second Judicial Circuit of Florida ;

Also :

Adopted concurrent resolution relative to the appointment
of a committee on the American Centennial.

Very respectfully,

H. S. HARMON,
Clerk Assembly.

ASSEMBLY HALL,
TALLAHASSEE, Fla., February 12, 1875. }

Hon. A. L. McCaskill, President pro tem. of the Senate :

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

Assembly Bill No. 32 :

A bill to be entitled An act to Incorporate the Co-operative
Colonization Bank of Florida ;

Also :

Assembly Bill No. 48 :

A bill to be entitled An act to Empower Married Women to Make Last Wills and Testaments ;

Also :

Assembly Bill No. 40 :

A bill to be entitled An act to Authorize the Comptroller to Purchase Stationery for the Official Use of the Governor, Members of the Cabinet, and Legislature ;

Assembly Bill No. 43 :

A bill to be entitled An act for the Relief of L. B. Sutton and others ;

Assembly Bill No. 87 :

A bill to be entitled An act to Authorize and Empower Executors and Administrators to Sell and Convey the Real Estates of their Testators and Intestates ;

Also :

Assembly Bill No. 95 :

A bill to be entitled An act Defining Contempts of Court ;

Also :

Assembly Bill No. 99 :

A bill to be entitled An act to Provide the Manner in which Minors may be Authorized to take Charge of and Manage their own Estates ;

Also :

Assembly Bill No. 101 :

A bill to be entitled An act in Relation to Jurors of the Circuit Courts ;

Also :

Assembly Bill No. 105 :

A bill to be entitled An act to Authorize Thomas T. Long to Establish a Ferry Across the Suwannee River at Roland's Bluff, in Suwannee County.

Very respectfully,

H. S. HARMON,
Clerk Assembly.

Mr. Lykes moved to refer the whole matter of adjournment to the Senator from the Twelfth District ;

Which was agreed to.

Senate concurrent resolution relative to Freedman's National Savings Bank returned to the Senate from the Assembly with an amendment, was taken up, and the Assembly amendment concurred in.

The resolution of Mr. Wallace in reference to the bonds issued to the Jacksonville, Pensacola and Mobile Railroad, was taken up and read.

Mr. Wallace moved the adoption of the concurrent resolution ;

On which the ayes and nays were called with the following result :

Those voting in the affirmative were—

Messrs. Brantley, Cottrell, Crawford, Fortner, Hendry, Knight, Lykes, McAuley, McKinnon, Oliveros, Osgood, Smith, and Wallace—13.

Those voting in the negative were—

Messrs. Durkee, Hill, Howell, Johnson, Long, Meacham, Pope, and Sturtevant—8.

So the concurrent resolution was adopted.

The Assembly concurrent resolution on the American Centennial was taken up and read, and the concurrent resolution was concurred in.

Assembly memorial to Congress asking the establishment of certain mail-routes and post-offices,

Was taken up and referred to the special committee on mail-routes.

Mr. Meacham notified the Senate of the desire of the Engraving Clerk of the Senate to resign.

Mr. Dennis moved that George H. DeLeon be elected to fill the vacancy;

Which was agreed to, and Mr. DeLeon was declared Engraving Clerk of the Senate.

The special committee appointed to investigate the charges of corruption made against members of the Senate in connection with the election of United States Senator made the following report:

SENATE CHAMBER,
TALLAHASSEE, Fla., —, 1875.

Hon. A. L. McCaskill, President of the Senate:

SIR: The special committee charged to investigate the charges of corruption and bribery said to be in circulation against members of the Legislature, have, in the prosecution of the investigation with which they were charged, called before them and examined several persons on oath, and made inquiries outside. The answers of the witnesses examined are herewith submitted to the Senate. As will be seen by reference to the testimony, there has not even a whisper of suspicion been shown to exist as to any member of the Senate.

Inquiry outside has disclosed that there are many rumors afloat as to corrupt and foul practices said to have been used to influence votes of members in the Senatorial election lately closed. These rumors are vague and possessed of the characteristics of all mere rumors, being indefinite and *intraceable* to either authors or parties charged to have been influenced by these practices.

The committee ask to be discharged from the further consideration of the subject.

Respectfully submitted,

J. L. F. COTTRELL, Chairman.

The report was received and the committee discharged.
The Committee on City and County Organizations made the following report:

SENATE CHAMBER,)
TALLAHASSEE, Fla., February 13, 1875. }

Hon. A. L. McCaskill, President of the Senate:

SIR: The Committee on City and County Organizations, to whom was referred Assembly Bill No. 30, An act to Legalize the Town Government of Tampa, Florida, beg leave to report the same back to the Senate and recommend that sections three and four of said bill be stricken out, and recommend the bill do pass as altered.

Respectfully submitted,

B. F. OLIVEROS,
Chairman City and County Organizations.

Which was received and the accompanying bill placed among the orders of the day.

The Committee on City and County Organizations made the following report:

SENATE CHAMBER,)
TALLAHASSEE, Fla., February 13, 1875. }

Hon. A. L. McCaskill, President of the Senate:

SIR: The Committee on City and County Organizations, to whom was referred Senate Bill No. 64, a bill to be entitled An act Establishing the Line between the Counties of La Fayette and Taylor, have examined the same and recommend its passage.

Respectfully submitted,

B. F. OLIVEROS,
Chairman City and County Organizations.

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

The Committee on Claims made the following report:

SENATE CHAMBER,)
TALLAHASSEE, Fla., February 13, 1875. }

Hon. A. L. McCaskill, President of the Senate:

SIR: The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred Assembly Bill No. 93, a bill to be entitled An act for the Relief of John Frazier & Co., of Suwannee County, Fla., have examined the same and recommend its indefinite postponement.

Respectfully submitted,

A. J. PARLIN, Chairman.

Which was received and the accompanying bill placed among the orders of the day.

The Committee on Engrossed Bills made the following report:

SENATE CHAMBER,
TALLAHASSEE, Fla., February 13, 1875. }

Hon. A. L. McCaskill, President of the Senate:

SIR: The Committee on Engrossed Bills, to whom was referred—

Senate Bill No. 29:

An act supplementary to an act entitled An act to Provide for the Incorporation of Benevolent and Charitable Societies, approved August 6, 1868;

Also:

Amendments to Assembly Bill No. 16:

Entitled a bill to be entitled an act to amend the twenty-third section of An act to Provide for the Incorporation of Cities and Towns, and to Establish a Uniform System of Municipal Government in this State, approved February 4, 1869;

Also:

Amendments to Assembly Bill No. 38:

A bill to be entitled An act to Amend Section Five, Chapter 1,628, Laws of Florida, Reducing the Number of Grand and Petit Jurors.; have examined them and do find them correctly engrossed.

Respectfully submitted,

E. T. STURTEVANT, Chairman.
G. C. BRANTLEY.

Was received and the accompanying bills placed among the orders of the day.

Mr. Wallace moved that the vote by which George H. De Leon was elected Engrossing Clerk of the Senate be reconsidered, and the reconsideration postponed until Monday next.

Mr. Dennis' motion to reconsider the vote by which Assembly Bill No 1:

A bill to be entitled An act to Regulate the Eligibility to Office in this State, was passed to a second reading,

Was taken up.

Mr. Dennis moved that the further consideration of the motion be postponed until Monday next.

Mr. Dennis withdrew his motion.

Mr. Dennis moved that Mr. De Leon come forward and be sworn in as Engrossing Clerk.

Mr. Wallace objected to his being sworn in while the question of reconsidering the vote by which he was elected was pending.

Mr. Dennis moved that the reconsideration of the vote by which G. H. De Leon was elected Engrossing Clerk be now taken up;

Which was agreed to.

Mr. Oliveros moved to postpone until Monday.

Which was agreed to.

Senate Bill No. 65 :

A bill to be entitled An act in Relation to the School and Seminary Fund,

Was taken up, read first time by its title, and referred to the joint committee on School and Seminary Fund.

Senate Bill No. 66 :

A bill to be entitled An act to Provide a General Law Authorizing the Establishment of Ferries,

Was taken up, read first time by its title, and referred to the Committee on Corporations.

Senate Bill No. 67 :

A bill to be entitled An act Defining the Boundaries of Certain Counties therein mentioned,

Was taken up, read first time by its title, and referred to the Committee on Cities and County Organizations.

Assembly Bill No. 32 :

A bill to be entitled an act to Incorporate the Co-operative Colonization Bank of Florida,

Was taken up, read first time by its title, and referred to the Committee on Corporations.

Assembly Bill No. 105 :

A bill to be entitled An act to Authorize Thomas T. Long to Establish a Ferry Across the Suwannee River, at Roland's Bluff, in Suwannee county,

Was taken up, read first time by its title, and referred to the Committee on Corporations.

Assembly Bill No. 101 :

A bill to be entitled An act in Relation to Jurors in Circuit Courts,

Was taken up, read first time by its title, and referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Mr. Osgood moved that the special order for to-day at 11 o'clock be postponed to the same hour to-morrow ;

Which was agreed to.

Assembly Bill No. 99 :

A bill to be entitled An act to Provide the Manner in which Minors may be Authorized to take Charge of and Manage their own Estates ;

Was taken up, read first time by its title, and referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Assembly Bill No. 95 :

A bill to be entitled An act Defining Contempts of Court,

Was taken up, read first time by its title, and referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Assembly Bill No. 87 :

A bill to be entitled An act to Authorize and Empower Executors and Administrators to Sell and Convey the Real Estate of their Testators and Intestates,

Was taken up, read first time by its title, and referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Assembly Bill No. 43 :

A bill to be entitled An act for the Relief of L. B. Sutton, F. E. Hardee, E. F. Ezell, E. Vann, W. W. Whidden, and W. N. Johnson,

Was taken up, read first time by its title, and referred to the Committee on Finance and Taxation.

Assembly Bill No. 40 :

A bill to be entitled An act to Authorize the Comptroller to Purchase Stationery for the Official Use of the Governor, Members of the Cabinet, and Legislature,

Was taken up, read first time by its title, and referred to the Committee on Legislative Expenses.

Senate Bill No. 15 :

A bill to be entitled An act Relating to Proceedings before Justices of the Peace and Judgments of Justices' Courts,

Was taken up and read the second time.

Mr. Osgood moved that the Senate go into committee of the whole for the consideration of the bill ;

Which was agreed to, and the Senate went into committee of the whole.

The committee rose, reported the bill back to the Senate with amendments, and asked to be discharged from further consideration thereof.

The report was received and the committee discharged.

The following amendments to the bill, recommended by the Senate in committee of the whole, were adopted :

In section six, line one, strike out the word " shall " and insert the words " may, at their discretion."

In section ten, line thirty-six, strike out the word " on " and insert the word " or."

In section twenty-one, line eight, in the form of summons, strike out the figure " 7."

In section forty-one, line six, after the word " in " insert the word " his."

In section forty-three, line three, after the word " clerk " insert the words " of the Circuit Court."

In the same section and line insert after the word " rendered " the words " within four years after the rendering of such judgment."

In section fifty-eight, line three, strike out the word "county" and insert the words "proper appellate."

In section sixty-one, line two, insert after the word "her" the words "or her."

In section sixty-two, line two, strike out the word "county" and insert the word "appellate."

In the same section, in line five, strike out the word "county" and insert the word "appellate."

In section sixty-four, line one, strike out the word "county" and insert the word "appellate."

In section sixty-five, line two, strike out the word "county" and insert the word "appellate."

In section eighty-two, line five, add the letter "s" to the word "summon."

The following message was received from the Assembly:

ASSEMBLY HALL,
TALLAHASSEE, Fla., February 13, 1875. }

Hon. A. L. McCaskill, President pro tem. of the Senate:

SIR: I am directed by the Assembly to inform the Senate that the Assembly has passed Assembly conjoint resolution submitting certain amendments to the Constitution to the people of the State for ratification.

Very respectfully,

H. S. HARMON,
Clerk Assembly.

Mr. Meacham moved that the Senate go into Executive session;

Which was agreed to.

The doors being opened, Mr. Smith moved that the Senate adjourn;

Which was agreed to, and the Senate adjourned until 4 o'clock.

FOUR O'CLOCK.

The Senate resumed its session.

The President *pro tem.* in the chair.

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

Mr. President, Messrs. Cottrell, Dennis, Durkee, Fortner, Hendry, Hill, Howell, Johnson, Knight, Long, McAuley, Oliveros, Osgood, Parlin, Pope, Smith, Sturtevant, and Wallace—19.

A quorum present.

The consideration of Senate Bill No. 15, a bill to be entitled An act Relating to Proceedings Before Justices of the Peace and Judgments of Justices' Courts, was resumed.

Mr. Osgood moved that further reading of the bill be suspended until Monday next.

Mr. Osgood withdrew his motion.

Mr. Cottrell offered the following amendment:

Add to section two the following: "10. Justices may grant new trials upon good cause appearing therefor at any time within four days after the trial, or after verdict; but no new trial shall be granted, unless upon notice to the parties interested, if such parties have appeared in person or by attorney, and such new trial may be upon payment of such costs as may be imposed, or without costs, in the discretion of the court."

Which was adopted.

Mr. Cottrell offered the following amendment:

Strike out all after the word "writing" in section sixteen, line three;

Which was adopted.

Mr. Cottrell moved a reconsideration of the vote by which section fifty-eight was amended.

Which was agreed to, and the amendment indefinitely postponed.

Mr. Cottrell moved that the rule be waived and the further reading of the bill be suspended.

Mr. Cottrell withdrew his motion.

Mr. McKinnon moved to strike out section 106 of the bill;

Which was agreed to.

Mr. Smith offered the following as section No. 108:

SEC. 108. In all cases where bond is required to be given by the preceding sections of this act, except in cases of appeal, the party required to give such bonds may deposit with the officer authorized to take such bond ten dollars more than one-half the amount of the required bond in United States currency; and in cases of appeal by depositing with the Clerk of the Appellate Court the amount of the judgment and costs, and ten dollars in addition thereto, and the proceedings may be had the same as if such required bond had been given. The money so deposited shall be held to await the final judgment of the suit.

Which was adopted.

Mr. Smith moved to strike out "thirty" in section 110 and insert "sixty;"

Which was agreed to.

So the bill was declared read a second time and ordered engrossed for a third reading on Monday.

Senate Bill No. 64 :

A bill to be entitled An act Establishing the Line Between the Counties of La Fayette and Taylor,

Was taken up, read a second time, and ordered to be engrossed for its third reading to-morrow.

Senate Bill No. 2 :

A bill to be entitled An act for the Relief of William F. Robertson,

Was taken up and read the third time.

On the question, Shall the bill pass?

The roll was called with the following result:

Those voting in the affirmative were—

Messrs. Cottrell, Crawford, Hill, Howell, Knight, McAuley, McKinnon, Osgood, Pope, Smith, and Wallace—11.

Those voting in the negative were—

Mr. President, Messrs. Johnson, Lykes, Oliveros, and Sturtevant—5.

So the bill passed, title as stated.

Assembly amendment to Senate Bill No. 48 was taken up and read.

On the question, Shall the amendment be concurred in?

The roll was called with the following result:

Those voting in the affirmative were—

Mr. President, Messrs. Brantley, Cottrell, Crawford, Durkee, Hendry, Hill, Howell, Johnson, Knight, McAuley, McKinnon, Oliveros, Osgood, Pope, Smith, Sturtevant, and Wallace—18.

Those voting in the negative were—None.

So the Assembly amendment was concurred in.

Mr. Johnson moved that the Senate now adjourn;

Which was not agreed to.

Senate Bill No. 29 :

Entitled an act supplementary to an act entitled An act to Provide for the Incorporation of Benevolent and Charitable Societies, approved August 6, 1868,

Was taken up and read the third time.

On the question, Shall the bill pass?

The roll was called with the following result:

Those voting in the affirmative were—

Mr. President, Messrs. Brantley, Cottrell, Crawford, Durkee, Hill, Howell, Johnson, Knight, Lykes, McAuley, McKinnon, Oliveros, Osgood, Pope, Smith, Sturtevant, and Wallace—18.

Those voting in the negative were—None.

So the bill passed, title as stated.

The following communication was received from the Attorney-General in response to a resolution of the Senate :

ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
TALLAHASSEE, Fla., February 13, 1875. }

Hon. A. L. McCaskill, President pro tem. of the Senate:

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the reception of the resolution of the Senate requesting my written opinion "as to the constitutional right which the Legislature has to change the organization of any county in this State."

In answer to the resolution I ask leave to refer the Senate to Article XIII., section two, of the present Constitution of the State of Florida, which is in the following words: "When any Senatorial district shall be composed of two or more counties, the counties of which such district consists shall not be entirely separated by any county belonging to another district, and all counties shall remain as now organized, unless changed by a two-thirds vote of both Houses of the Legislature."

This section is under an Article in reference to the census and apportionment of representation, and the section is in connection with the organization of the Senatorial districts; but the latter part of the section provides in unmistakable terms for changing the organization of the counties, and this organic change is effected by a two-thirds vote of both Houses of the Legislature, and there is no limit to this organic change, except the provision of the Constitution in prescribing what counties shall be embraced in the territorial limits of the judicial circuits of this State.

Before entering into an examination of the relative bearing of the section under consideration, cited *supra*, it is proper to ascertain the exact meaning of the term "organized" as used in this section, and as applied to *counties* as they exist, not only territorially, but in their relation to the government of the State. Counties are subdivisions of the State, for political purposes; within those subdivisions are arrangements for the performance of certain public duties as a part of the machinery of the State, and in order to perform those duties they are vested with certain powers.

In a public sense, to organize is to establish and appoint the proper officers of a legislative or public body.

This subject has received the attention of the Supreme Court of this State in a very able and lucid opinion, in which the court concurred (*vide* XIV., Fla., p. 320). While it is not of binding authority, not being a decision according to law, but an opinion delivered to the Governor of the State, upon his request, it is, nevertheless, worthy of great consideration and respect, as well on account of its ability as the high source from which it emanated.

There are three points laid down in this opinion:

1. A new county for judicial purposes only can not be formed in any county already established.

2. The boundary lines of a county may be changed by a two-thirds vote of both Houses of the Legislature.

3. A new county, with all the rights and privileges of a county, can not be created under the Constitution.

In answering fully the questions connected with this subject and germane to the resolution of the Senate requesting my opinion on the subject as previously stated, I am of opinion that subject to the restrictions of Article XVI, section 3, of the Constitution, prescribing the counties by name that shall constitute the several judicial districts of the circuit courts, and within the restrictions of the constitutional views of the opinion of the Supreme Court, rendered in a letter to Governor Hart, dated January the 24th, 1873, with the exception hereinafter stated, that the organization of any county can be changed by a two-thirds vote of both Houses of the Legislature, the language of the Constitution being: "And all counties shall remain as *now organized*, unless *changed* by a two-thirds vote of both Houses of the Legislature." This clause gives a general power to the Legislature, and would be unlimited were it not for the specific restriction of the third section of Article XVI of the Constitution, prescribing the counties that constitute the judicial circuits of this State.

The Constitution says there shall be seven judicial *districts*, and seven *circuit judges* for these districts—Article VI, section seven. The limits of these districts are prescribed according to the Constitution, which places also a certain number of counties in each district. The ascertained limits of the district are the county lines of coterminous districts, if these county lines are ascertained, that defines the constitutional limits of the district. The component parts of the districts consist of a specified number of counties, not depending upon the organization of the counties, but upon the territories in the district known by the subdivision of counties required by the Constitution to constitute a judicial district.

In conclusion I recommend to the consideration of the Senate the head-notes of the opinion of the judges of the Supreme Court of Florida, as appears in the letter to Governor Hart of January 24th, 1873, with this explanation to the second paragraph of said head-notes, which holds that, "The boundary lines of a county may be changed by a two-thirds vote of both Houses of the Legislature," to which I would add: If it is not an ascertained boundary between coterminous judicial districts, for the limits of the district if ascertained and known previous to the adoption of the present Constitution are thereby defined and settled beyond legislative power.

I have the honor to be, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM ARCHER COCKE,
Attorney-General State of Florida.

Mr. Osgood moved that the Senate adjourn until Monday at 11 o'clock,

Which was agreed to, and the Senate was declared adjourned accordingly.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1875.

The Senate met pursuant to adjournment.

The President *pro tem.* in the chair.

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

Mr. President, Messrs. Brantley, Cottrell, Crawford, Dennis, Durkee, Fortner, Hendry, Hill, Howell, Johnson, Knight, Long, Lykes, McAuley, McKinnon, Oliveros, Osgood, Parlin, Pope, Smith, Sturtevant, and Wallace—23.

A quorum present.

Prayer by the Chaplain.

Reading of the Journal.

Mr. Wallace moved that the further reading of the Journal be dispensed with ;

Which was agreed to, and the Journal approved.

Mr. Osgood moved that the special order for to-day at 11 o'clock be postponed until to-morrow at same hour.

Under a suspension of the rule Mr. Wallace introduced Senate Bill No. 68 :

A bill to be entitled An act Authorizing Clerks of Courts and Sheriffs to Practice Law in the Several Counties of this State ;

Which was received and placed among the orders of the day.

Under a suspension of the rule Mr. Hendry introduced Senate Bill No. 69 :

A bill to be entitled An act to Protect Settlers on the Public Lands in this State ;

Which was received and placed among the orders of the day.

The Committee on Privileges and Elections made the following report :

SENATE CHAMBER,
TALLAHASSEE, Fla., February —, 1875. }

Hon. A. L. McCaskill, President of the Senate :

SIR: Pending the investigation of the following preamble and resolution :

WHEREAS, Mr. Sturtevant holds his seat in this Senate as Senator from the Twenty-first District illegally and unjustly ; and whereas, the election returns from Dade and Brevard counties show that a large majority of the votes cast were given for