

CONGRESS.

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS—FIRST SESSION.

SENATE.

TUESDAY, DEC. 6.—Mr. Dickerson, of New Jersey, offered the following resolution for consideration:

Resolved, That the 30th rule for conducting the business of the Senate be so amended, that, instead of a committee of Commerce and Manufactures, there be two standing committees, one of Commerce and one of Manufactures.

Mr. Van Buren, of New-York, gave notice that on Tuesday next he should ask leave to introduce a resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, in relation to Roads and Canals.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 7.—The resolution submitted yesterday by Mr. Dickerson, which proposes to divide the committee of Commerce and Manufactures, was next taken up, and adopted—Ayes 20—Noes 9.

Mr. Johnson, of Kentucky, then submitted the following resolution for consideration:

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to inquire into the expediency of abolishing imprisonment for debt.

Mr. J. wished the Senate would consider the resolution at once, as the subject had been often before them, and had been amply discussed. Some objection was made to its being taken up and acted on, in consequence of which, Mr. J. moved that it lie on the table, to be taken up in its regular order.

FRIDAY, DEC. 9.—Mr. Hayne submitted the following resolution for consideration:

Resolved, That uniform laws on the subject of bankruptcy throughout the United States ought to be established.

The resolution offered on Wednesday by Mr. Ruggles was taken up for consideration:

Resolved, That the 30th rule of the Senate be amended, by adding to it the following: "and a committee to consist of five members on Roads and Canals."

The resolution offered by Mr. Findlay, of Penn. "for the appointment of a committee on Agriculture," was next taken up for consideration, and after some debate, agreed to.

MONDAY, DEC. 12.—The following Standing Committees were announced from the Chair:

On Foreign Relations.—Messrs. Macon, Tazewell, Gaillard, Mills, and White.

On Finance.—Messrs. Smith, Berrien, Holmes, Hayne, and Woodbury.

On Commerce.—Messrs. Lloyd of Mass. Van Dyke, Johnston of Lou. Williams, and Edwards.

On Manufactures.—Messrs. Dickerson, Ruggles, Findlay, Lloyd of Mass. and Clayton.

On Agriculture.—Messrs. Findlay, Lloyd of Md. Branch, Woodbury, and Boulogny.

On Military Affairs.—Messrs. Harrison, Benton, Chandler, Hendricks, and Johnson of Ky.

On the Militia.—Messrs. Chandler, Branch, Knight, Harrison, and Bell.

On Naval Affairs.—Messrs. Hayne, Williams, Seymour, Robbins, and Kane.

On Public Lands.—Messrs. Barton, Thomas, Eaton, King, and Van Dyke.

On Indian Affairs.—Messrs. Benton, White, King, Edwards, and Cobb.

On Claims.—Messrs. Ruggles, Bell, Chase, McIlvaine, and Clayton.

On the Judiciary.—Messrs. Van Buren, Holmes, Rowan, Berrien, and Mills.

On the Post Office and Post Roads.—Messrs. Johnston of Ky. Johnston of Lou. Thomas, McIlvaine, and Willey.

On Pensions.—Messrs. Noble, Chase, Marks, Cobb, and Ellis.

On the District of Columbia.—Messrs. Lloyd of Md. Rowan, Noble, Eaton, and Boulogny.

On the Contingent Expenses of the Senate.—Messrs. Seymour, Kane, and Hendricks.

On Engrossed Bills.—Messrs. Marks, Willey, and Ellis.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

FRIDAY, DEC. 9.—Mr. Hemphill presented a memorial, signed by Delegates from the States of Rhode-Island, New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, and South-Carolina, in behalf of the surviving officers of the Revolutionary Army, for "renewing their claim for the compensation which was stipulated as the reward of those services and sacrifices, which, without a boast," the memorialists observe, "they may be allowed to say, contributed to secure the peace, happiness, and sovereignty of the United States;" and moved that the memorial be referred to a select committee, and printed; which was agreed to.

Mr. McDuffie offered the following resolution, which was ordered to lie on the table, and be printed:

Resolved, That for the purpose of electing the President and Vice-President of the U. States, the Constitution ought to be so amended, that a uniform system of voting by districts shall be established in all the States; and that the Constitution ought to be further amended in such manner as will prevent the election of the aforesaid officers from devolving upon the respective Houses of Congress.

Resolved, That a select committee be appointed, with instructions to prepare and report a joint resolution, embracing the aforesaid objects.

Mr. Ingham offered the following resolution, which was ordered to lie one day on the table:

Resolved, That the President of the U. States be requested to communicate to this House (if not incompatible with the public interest) the Documents and Proceedings of the Naval Court Martial in the case of Captain Charles Stewart—also the documents and proceedings of the Naval Court Martial in the case of Lieutenants Joshua R. Sands, and William M. Hunter.

The following is an abstract from the list of Committees appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives:

STANDING COMMITTEES.

Ways and Means.—Messrs. M'Lane of Del. Cook, Stevenson, M'Duffie, Dwight, Marvin, and Brent.

Claims.—Messrs. Williams, M'Coy, Whittlesey, James Wilson, Barber of Con. Martindale, and Owen.

Commerce.—Messrs. Newton, Tomlinson, Cambreleng, Reed, Thompson of Ga. Mangum, and Wurtz.

Judiciary.—Messrs. Webster, Livingston, Buchanan, Wright, Clarke, Dayton, and Dorsey.

Manufactures.—Messrs. Mallary, Condit, Connor, Wickliffe, Davis, White, and Burgess.

Agriculture.—Messrs. Van Rensselaer, Harris, Hallock, Meach, Merwin, Wilson of S. C. and Taylor of Va.

Indian Affairs.—Messrs. Cooke, M'Kee, McLean of Oh. Buckner, Tahafero, M'Manus, and Miner.

Foreign Affairs.—Messrs. Forsyth, Crowninshield, Trimble, Archer, Worthington, Everett, and Stevenson of Pa.

Military Affairs.—Messrs. Hamilton, Mitchell of Md. Houston, Fattall, Vance, Lincoln, and Ward.

Naval Affairs.—Messrs. Storrs, Holcombe, Bartlett, Saunders, Markley, Fr. Johnson, and Sands.

SELECT COMMITTEES.

Roads and Canals.—Messrs. Hemphill, Bucher, Stewart, Adams of N. Y. Henry, Haynes, and Ingersoll.

National University and Observatory.—Messrs. Mercer, Carter, Verplank, Edwards of Pa. Letcher, Sawyer, and Woods of O.

Executive Departments.—Messrs. Webster, M'Lean of Del. Forsyth, Hemphill, Crowninshield, Livingston, and Frs. Johnson.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

SENATE.

THURSDAY, DEC. 8.—Mr. Wilson, of Edgecombe, presented a bill to regulate the Tarborough Academy, and for other purposes; also, a bill to legitimate Louisa Lodge and Dolly Lodge, and Wm. Adams, of Edgecombe county. Which bills were read the first time.

The Senate proceeded to the consideration of the bill to advance the administration of Justice in Courts of Equity, and Mr. Dowd moved for its indefinite postponement, which was not agreed to—Yeas 25, Nays 30. The bill then passed its second reading.

FRIDAY, DEC. 9.—On motion of Spaight of Craven, the Judiciary Committee were instructed to enquire into the expediency of making provision for the better preservation of Justices' Judgments and Executions, where slaves shall be sold to satisfy the same.

SATURDAY, DEC. 10.—The bill vesting in the people the right of electing Sheriffs was read, and on the question shall the bill pass; there being 28 for, and 28 against it, the Speaker voted in the negative. The bill, therefore, was rejected.

MONDAY, DEC. 12.—Mr. Williams presented the petition of sundry inhabitants of Beaufort county, on the subject of free schools; which was referred to the committee on Education.

The bill to repeal part of the act of 1826, entitled "An act to revise the militia laws of this state relative to infantry," was read the second time, and, on motion of Mr. McDowell, of Burke, indefinitely postponed.

The engrossed bill to cede to the United States Oak Island, or so much thereof as shall be purchased by the United States for the purpose of erecting a fortification at the mouth of the Cape Fear; and the bill to alter the time of holding the Superior Courts of Davidson and Rowan, were read the second and third times, and ordered to be enrolled.

The bill more effectually to suppress Sabbath breaking, was read the second time, and, on motion of Mr. Speight, of Greene, indefinitely postponed.

On motion of Mr. Speight, of Greene, the Senate resolved itself into committee of the whole, Mr. Davidson, of Mecklenburg, in the Chair, on the bill to alter the time of the annual meeting of the General Assembly. After some time spent therein, the committee rose, and reported the said bill without amendment.—The bill was then read the second and third times, and ordered to be engrossed. [This bill enacts that the General Assembly shall meet on the last Monday in December, 1826; and thereafter, on the 2d Monday in January.]

TUESDAY, DEC. 13.—Mr. Pickett, from the committee on the Judiciary, reported the bill directing the manner in which dowers shall hereafter be laid off, without amendment; and the said bill was made the order of the day for to-morrow.

Mr. Pickett, from the same committee, reported the bill to provide for the better government of the town of Lincoln; which passed its first reading.

Mr. Pickett, from the same committee, to whom was referred the resolution of the Senate of the 8th instant, directing an inquiry into the expediency of amending the law of descents reported that it is inexpedient to amend said law. Concurred in.

Mr. Love presented the following resolutions, which were read and laid on the table:

Resolved, by the Senate and House of Commons of the state of North-Carolina, That the government of the United States, in a treaty it made with certain Cherokee Indians on the 26th of February, 1819, for lands in this state, having agreed to allow a reservation of 640 acres to each head of an Indian family residing within the ceded territory, who should choose to become citizens of the United States in manner stipulated in said treaty, did, without the consent of this state, appropriate a considerable part of the most valuable land of the territory acquired under the treaty to the use of the said Indians, which lands belonged exclusively to this state; and that, to prevent any difficulty arising under the treaty, or dissatisfaction to the Indians, with sentiments of respect and attachment to the government of the Union, and with a view to that humane and liberal policy which has always distinguished the conduct of the United States towards the Indian tribes, this state has purchased, at a full and fair price, the interest and estate of the said Indians in the aforesaid lands reserved for the sum of \$19,940, which has been paid in equitable proportions and to the entire satisfaction of the said Indians, and which sum ought to be refunded to this state by the United States.

Resolved, that this state having ceded to the United States a large tract of country on the waters of the Mississippi, which constitutes a valuable portion of the public lands, the government of the United States ought, upon principle of moral justice, to extinguish, as soon as may be practicable, the Indian title to the balance of lands in this state, upon which a part of the Cherokee Indians now reside; and that the said government be requested to give this subject an early consideration.

Resolved, that the Senators from this state in the Congress of the United States be instructed, and the Representatives requested to make application to Congress for an appropriation of money for the objects aforesaid; and that they be requested to co-operate with the Legislature in such manner as may seem to them expedient, and compatible with the honor and interest of this state.

Resolved, that the Governor of this state be requested to transmit to each of the Senators and Representatives from this state in Congress a copy of the aforesaid resolutions.

Mr. Sanders presented a bill to amend the several acts, regulating proceedings in Courts of Equity; and Mr. Love a bill to revive and continue in force, for the time therein mentioned, the act of 1824, entitled "An act to alter and amend the act of 1825, entitled 'An act for the relief of such persons as may become purchasers of the Cherokee Lands, sold under the authority of this state. Which bills passed their first reading.

The bill to incorporate the Gold Company was read the second time, and, on motion of Mr. Seawell, postponed indefinitely—Yeas 37, Nays 17.

The bill more effectually to secure Bank Debts in all cases where the statute of limitation might be plead, was read the second time, and on motion of Mr. Pickett, postponed indefinitely.

A message from the other House, proposing to ballot on Friday next for seven Counsellors of State, and stating that Peter Browne, Meshack Franklin, Gideon Alston, John McDowell, of Rutherford, Geo. W. Jeffreys, Wm. Blackledge and Thomas Manny, are in nomination. Agreed to.

The Senate proceeded to the third reading of the bill to advance the administration of justice in Courts of Equity, and to establish a Court for that purpose.—Mr. Seawell moved to strike out the word "Nashville," in the 11th line of the 7th section, and insert in lieu thereof "Raleigh." Not agreed to. On motion of Mr. Joiner, the words "and the like causes of the county of Pitt shall be transferred for trial to the Court to be held by this act at Newbern," were added to the 2d section. Further amendment was made to the bill on motion of Mr. Seawell, and the question recurring on its passage, it was decided in the negative—Yeas 21, Nays 35.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

TUESDAY, DEC. 6. The bill to incorporate the Agricultural Society of Stokes County, was read the second and third times, and ordered to be enrolled.

On motion of Mr. Bain,

Resolved, that the committee on Military Affairs be instructed to enquire into the propriety of classing the militia of this state into two classes: the first class to consist of effective men from the age 18 to 35 years; the second class to consist of effective men from the age of 35 to 45 years; that the effective men constituting the first class shall be subject to military duty as now by law required; that the effective men composing the second class be only held bound to do military duty on days of regimental or general reviews.

Resolved, further, that the same committee inquire into the expediency of placing the public arms, not otherwise disposed of, in the hands of the militia of the first class, to be used by them under the same rules, restrictions and regulations as the several acts relative to public arms require; and that they have leave to report by bill or otherwise.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 7.—A message from the Senate, stating their agreement to the amendments made in the bill to amend the several Acts of Assembly, for extending and improving the state road leading from Wilkesborough to the foot of Laurel Hill. Whereupon the said bill was ordered to be enrolled.

Mr. Polk, from the committee of Propositions and Grievances, to whom was referred the petition of sundry citizens of Surry county, on the subject of a mill-dam, reported that it is inexpedient to grant the prayer thereof. Concurred in.

The following bills, from the Senate, passed their first reading: The bill for improving the navigation of Perquimons River above Newby's Bridge; the bill to establish a poor house in Burke; and the bill making compensation to the jurors of the Superior and County Courts of Ashe.

The report of the Committee of Propositions and Grievances, to whom was referred a bill to annex part of the counties of Rutherford and Burke to Buncombe, recommending its rejection, was read and concurred in.

Ordered that the bill to repeal the act of 1819, entitled "An act to create a fund for Internal Improvement, and to establish a Board for the management thereof," lie on the table.

Mr. Bain presented a bill to amend and explain the 8th section of the act of 1784, empowering the County Courts of the several counties in the state to order the laying out of public roads, &c. which was read the first time.

THURSDAY, DEC. 8.—Mr. Matthews presented a bill to authorize the building of a Toll Bridge over Cape-Fear river at or near the place where a direct line from Fayetteville to Raleigh would cross the same, and to incorporate a company for that purpose; and Mr. Webb, a bill to increase the tax on Billiard tables to \$1000. The first mentioned bill passed its first reading, and the last was rejected.

Mr. Caldwell presented a bill respecting a Light Infantry Company in Salisbury, commanded by Capt. Lemley. Read and referred to the Military committee.

FRIDAY, DEC. 9.—Mr. Gary presented a bill to explain and amend the act of 1819, giving to County Courts the power of regulating separate Elections; Mr. Carson, a bill to keep open for the passage of fish, Main White Oak River, in Rutherford county.

SATURDAY, DEC. 10.—Mr. Melchor presented a bill to amend the first section of an act passed in 1819, concerning the town of Concord; Mr. Borden, a bill to authorize and direct the payment to the Wardens of the Poor in each County, the tax imposed on retailers of spirituous liquors.

The House resumed the consideration of the bill relative to the stealing of slaves, &c. which was read the second time, and passed by a vote of 78 to 35.

On motion of Mr. Swain, the Judiciary committee were instructed to enquire into the expediency of extending the power of the Governor, issuing proclamations for the apprehension of fugitives from Justice, so as to embrace notorious offenders going at large, within as well as without the State.

MONDAY, DEC. 12.—Mr. Polk presented the petition of Jane Whitley, of Mecklenburg, praying to be divorced from her husband Jonathan Whitley. Referred to the committee of Divorce and Alimony.

Mr. Scott presented the memorial of Archibald D. Murphey, stating his intention of publishing a history of the State, and asking the help and patronage of the Legislature. Ordered that the said memorial be sent to the Senate, with a proposition to refer the same to a special joint committee; and that Messrs. Scott, A. Moore, Shepperd, Spruill and Pugh form the committee on the part of this House.

Agreeably to the order of the day, the House resolved itself into a committee of the Whole, Mr. Polk in the Chair, on the bill to establish a Bank on behalf of, and for the benefit of the state; and, after some time spent therein, the committee rose, reported progress, and obtained leave to sit again.

TUESDAY, DEC. 13.—Mr. Matthews presented a bill to incorporate the Cotton Plant Steam Boat Company on the Cape-Fear river; which was read the first time, and referred to the committee on Internal Improvement.

A message from the Senate, stating that they had appointed a committee on their part, consisting of Messrs. Seawell, Spaight of Craven, Forney, Davidson of Mecklenburg, and Hill of Franklin, to consider the memorial of Archibald D. Murphey.

The following bills from the Senate, passed their first reading: the bill to alter the time of the annual meetings of the General Assembly; the bill to appoint commissioners to contract for the building of a new court house in Wilkes, and for other purposes; and the bill to make valid certain deeds registered in the county of Guilford.

Mr. Scott, from the Judiciary committee, to whom was referred the resolution instructing them to inquire into the propriety of so amending the laws prescribing the duties of sheriffs to enable the

County Trustees and Wardens of the Poor to proceed by citation against the Sheriffs who may fail to pay over and account for monies received by them, reported that the law in respect requires no amendment. Concurred in.

The bill to prevent protracted litigation, by enlarging the jurisdiction of Justices of the Peace, was read the first time, and made the order of the day for Friday next.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 14.—On motion of Mr. Swain, Doctors Gorham, Drake, and Wilcox were added to the committee appointed to inquire into the expediency of establishing a Medical Board.

Mr. Scott presented the memorial of sundry inhabitants of Orange, on the subject of Sunday Schools. Referred to the committee on Education.

The bill to appoint commissioners to contract for the building of a new court house in Wilkes county, was read the third time, and ordered to be enrolled.

Mr. Scott, from the committee on the Judiciary, who were instructed to inquire how far the securities to a constable's bond are bound for notes, judgments, &c. received by that officer, and by him not accounted for, reported that the law is sufficiently comprehensive, and that any alteration or amendment is unnecessary. Concurred in.

The House resolved itself into a committee of the Whole, Mr. Polk in the Chair, on the bill to establish a Bank on behalf of, and for the benefit of the State; and, after considerable debate, the committee rose, reported progress, and obtained leave to sit again.

MINISTERS TO PANAMA.

The most immediately interesting part of the Message, is the determination to send Ministers to represent the United States at the Congress of Panama. It gives us pleasure to find that this is to be done under instructions to them to act as counsellors only, and with a perfect understanding between this and the other governments, that no deviation is expected of the United States from that strict neutrality which had been heretofore declared and maintained between the present belligerents—and, of course, that the idea of alliance between the United States and those powers is wholly out of question. The functions of the Ministers who are to be sent to that Conference are, nevertheless, of the gravest and most confidential nature, and demand the aid of the longest experience as well as of the best talents of the country.—Conjecture is already busy as to who are to compose the mission. Among the names which have been mentioned, are those of ALBERT GALLATIN and WILLIAM H. CRAWFORD. It is probable, however, though we have no means of knowing the fact, that the selection, on whomsoever it devolves, has been already made.

Not. Int.

From the New-York American.

The manner in which Presidential Electors shall hereafter be chosen in the state, whether by districts, as Members of Congress are now chosen, or by a general ticket, to be voted for throughout the state, was, as our readers may remember submitted, at the election just closed, to the decision of the people. The public press had very generally taken sides for the general ticket system. The Albany Argus, however, and this paper, together with several of the papers in the western part of the state, expressed a very decided preference for the district system; and it is therefore, with very great satisfaction that we learn, as well from private information as from official returns, that the district system will have an immense majority of the votes. The existing law to that effect will, of course, remain in force.

The President of the United States must certainly feel himself very much obliged to his kind friends, the editors of the Richmond Enquirer, and some two or three others, for their excellent and gratuitous advice, given on all occasions of executive business. There is not a movement made nor a word said, but they point out its errors and mistakes, nor a proceeding or writing in contemplation, but they point out the mode of proceeding and give him directions how and what to write! In this friendly state of things, when there is so much wisdom in Virginia, and such a disposition to dispense it freely to the needy, who would not be President! Assuredly no self-consciousness of incompetency will interfere prevent the acceptance of this station by any body. We recommend that the constitution of the United States be altered, so as to make Virginia the Metropolitan Territory, the Enquirer office the sessions room of the Cabinet, and the Wigwam the Secretary of State's office; the other offices may be located according to the residences of the several wise men who take so much interest in the affairs of state.—The officers of government, from the President down to the porter of the clerks' office, to be selected from a list of names to be furnished by the editors of the Enquirer, their heirs, and assigns forever. Baltimore Patriot.

A wise public spirit.—The city of Boston has appropriated \$78,500 for the benefit of its schools during the current year.