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STATE LEGISLATURE.

DEBATE

the House of Commons of North-Car a, on Mal tion to regulate the Public Printing in run's Resol such a manner that it may be done at the lowest price

Nov. 27, 1810.

The Resolution was read in the following words : "Whereas it is consistent with true Republicania and the faithful discharge of the representative duty, to minit economy in the expenditive of the public money i And whereas it is represented to the General Assembly that § 1456 are annually expended for printing and dis-tributing the Laws of the State, when it is believed the er can be done for a struch less such : Rebeised, there-We Printing, in such manner that it may be done for the vest price."

Major OWEN (of Bladen) said, that befor e principle of the Resolution was discussed e felt it his dutyto satisfy the flouse should any toubts exist on the head that the facts contain-in that resolution were substantially correct. The editor of the Register had undertaken to usert that they were otherwise. He stated that w received 1200 dollars as a salary and an alwance for delivering the Laws and Journals h made his compensation \$ 1418. This main is true as far as it goes, but it is not the whole truth. Me. Gales had not the jus-tice and generosity to acknowledge that he also receives as a perquisite of his office a dollar for each county, for distributing the laws of Con-gress, and that there is annually an extra alwante made him seldom much less than 75 follars. Did the Public Printer mean in this manner to prepossess the minds of the niem-bers against the resolution? What his motives may have been he could not pretend to say. but hoped they were not improper.-Let his conduct and his motives be passed over ; it is sufficient that the sum mentioned in the Resolution is under that which the Public Printer mually receives.

Mr. MUMFORD (of Rowan) moved esolution as an amendment, providing that the salary of the Public Printer should be fixed at one thousand dollars per annum, as a

compensation for all services. Major OWEN was opposed to the amend-ment because it was directly calculated, if not hunded, to defeat the object he had in view. to shall judge of the value of a Printer's vices? Can the gentleman from Rowan that the work cannot be done for less than a thousand dollars, or that that sum will be a sufficient compensation. The object of the re-solution is economy. It is to fix a fair price upon services to be performed. It was not with the House to judge of the value of a printer's labour. But the resolution points the way to fix its true value by offering it to the competition of professional men.

Mr. PHIFER (of Cabarrus) was in favour of the original resolution, but opposed to the amendment. It is well known that this effice intendment. It is well known that this once has been for many years a rallying point, of party. In the carly part of every session the hosule spirit of party had been regularly bindial by contention and discussions which grew out of this office. The time of the Le-gislature is wasted and the remainder of the session is influenced by the bane of its early bic but why run into all the perty ramifications of kerings. To do away these party feelings we office-to descend to a workman, to a mechamust destroy the office. It is worse than use mic, to the mere business of placing types in a iess to the public. The business is merely certain form, a work executed by apprentices mechanical. One good workman can do it by boys ; and worst of all squanser upon this as well as mother. And Mr. P. was for re- tew weeks labour, the enormous sum of one moving a fruitful source of injurious and ex- thousand and eighteen dollars ! pensive contention, putting all printers on a level and introducing more economy into the public expenditures. General LOVE (of Haywood) was opposed to both resolutions. He did not believe the to their own interests. It is no longer to be compensation for printing was too high, at all concealed from them that their money is excompensation for printing was too high, at all events he was opposed to letting out the office. In the year '75 the salary of Public Printer was £500—In '85 on representation of Mr. Hodge that it was two small, it was raised to £600, and one or two hundred dollars was allowed for extra services - In '98 Mr. Hodes lost his office ; it was then given to Mr. Hall of Wilmington-In '99 he was elected again and that year petitioned the Assembly fer a further increase of salary. In 1804 a com-mittee was appointed to enquire whether the compensation was more than equal to the services. Several Printers were then consulted and among the rest Mr. Hodge, who said he always had thought the salary too small, and he thought so still. If it was too small then, how can it be too large now, when the business has increased, and is increasing annually. But Gen. L. said he should be willing to make enquiry if there were any means of obtaining information. But how is the information to be gained? If we enquire of Mr. Gales and of his competitors, their statements will vary, and whom shull we credit? Gen. L. said no one would be more ready to reduce the salary than himself, if he could be convinced it was too himsell, if he could be convinced it was too large. He paid his proportion of the salary in taxation, and his constituents paid their share. But though he did not wish those in public employ to be over paid, he wished them to receive an adequate compensation for their services. No one, if building a house, would wish to screw down a carpenter to undertake it at half its value. He had no notion of harish to screw down a carpenter to undernike t at half its value. He had no notion of bar-ering away offices. Murchhere were three rinters in Raleigh : but if we destroy the office of Public Printer wo may in 7 years have half as compelled to give them what they ask. nelled to give th

If this office is let out to the lowest bidde

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If this other is let out to the lowest budgets may as well put op is the same way the offic of Scoretary, Treasurer and Computaler. It is information is sought, we must look for where there is no conflicting interests. The Secretary or Treasurer might be instructed enquire of Printers in other Sentes, and if we could be convinced the aslary was too high. would vote for its reduction. He did not legislate for particular men, and all he wished was that the public printing might be well done, no matter by whom. He did not care whether Tom, Dick or Harry was the printer. MR. WEBB, (of Haijing,) and that to as-certain the duties of Public Printer and enable the House to judge whether services were proportioned to the compensation it was necessa-ry to refer to the Statute Book. In the acts of 1805, Chapter 19-The duties of Public Prin-ter were defined, and the selary fixed at twelve hundred dollars i and four dollars are also allowed for each county for distributing the laws and journels ; now supposing at an average that only 30 dollars is allowed for extra servicen, and one dollar a county allowed for distributing the acts of Congress, the annual compensation amounts to 1560 dollars. By the act of 1804 it is provided that 186 copies of the Journals shall be furnished to Members of the Legislature, and one copy each to the Governout, Secretary, Treasurer, Comptroller and 4 Clerks of the two houses, making in the whole 194 copies of the journals to be printed. Each copy of the journals we will say contains two quires of paper, never more, but sometimes less. This paper is worth two dollars a ream ; the twenty reams for the journals then is worth 49 dollars.

The Public Printer is required to furnish 186 copies of the laws to the members of the Assembly :- To the Governour, the six judges, 8 clerks of Superiour Courts, (for at the time the Law passed there were but eight) the Solicitors, the Masters in Chancery, County Court Clerks, Coroners, Sheriffs one copy each, and to the Justices of the Peace about 1500, making in the whole about 1919 copies, and re-quiring 95 reams, which at two dollars per ream, amounts to 192 dollars. Now allow 310 dollars for distributing, (for this is what the law allows, though it is probably not worth. half the sum) the amount of expense then is 542 dollars : Subtract this from 1560 dollars, which the printer receives and you have a balance of 1018 dollars. And what services are render I to the state for this? Why the labor of a master printer & two or three journeymen or apprestices for two months and a half !! days to make the distribution.

The honourable member from Haywood scouts the idea of letting out the printing to the lowest bidder. But is it not the uniform practice in mechanical business of every other kind When the Assembly ordered the walls of the State House to be painted did they create an office, fix a salary and elect a pain-Mr. W. said he was glad the business had been brought forward so promptly at so early a stop put to these enormous wastes of time and treasure. To confer such exclusive favours on an individual is anti-republican : it is this house were not judges of the worth of altogether repugnant both to doctrines of equal printing. If that is the fact, is it not the height rights and of economy. Mr. W. said before of absurdity for the house to fix the value of he sat down he would do the public printer the it. Correct information he says cannot be objustice to say, that he highly approved of the tained from printers. But if we cannot credit manner in which he had executed his work, and if that gentisman would execute this work with as little expence to the State as others would, he should most certainly give him his hearty and candid support. Gen. LOVE said he did not oppose inves-ligation, he was only opposed to the principle contained in the resolution. There was none more willing to reduce the printing to its worth than himself. MR. SEAWELL (of Wake) considered he question as, important both as regarded principle and economy, and hoped a decision would be had without any influence of party feeling. The party he belonged to, he said, was the party of honest men, and if a measure came before him recommended by justice and honesty he became its advocate without enquiring whether it was Federal or Republican. The phin and simple question how before

only but goes into no details as to that will ever preven of economising. And w ater ccor

the manner of economising. But it would be no novel practice, and per-tups no absord one, to put out the work to the lowest bidder. This is the manner which Con-gress have adopted, yet say gentlemen, for this inte to do it would be dishemout the is deroga-tory to her character. Do they room in this in-direct manner to impressed. direct manner to impeach our general government, where this practice obtains not only in printing, but throughout the whole Post Of-fice department. And why was this course adopted by Congress ? It was because favour-ites had been provided with snug offices to their private emolument without regard to the public service. And will this legislature depart so widely in practice from those economi-cal principles which we profess, as to give to a particular man 16 or 17 hundred dollars for services which no man in his conscience can say is worth any thing near that sum. Let us, said Mr. S. bring the case home to our own bosoms and business. Would we squander thus from our own private purse! would we give away these large sums without knowing whether or not we could obtain the same services for a much less sum ? . We used only re-fer to our conduct a few days ago. What an extreme sensation was excited among the members of Assembly because the Tavern Keepers had raised the price of heard a few cents. A prodigious commotion ensued and a loud outcry was raised against it. And shall we who feit and expressed so much for a few paltry shillings, because they were to come out of our own pockets, shall we disre-gard the interests of those who sent us here and squander away their money by thousands, year after year, and for no valuable purpose whate-ver, but to enrich an individual. Shall we discharge our duty to our constituents or shall we not treasonably betray their interests ? I, continued Mr. S. any not disposed to legislate for individuals or for parties, but for my country. My principles are founded on a Republican basis and if not derived from Mr. Jefferson the father and patron of the Republican School to which I belong, they receive con-firmation and support from the sentiments contained in his Inaugural Speech. "Though the will of the majority" says this great man. "is always to prevail, that will to be rightful must be reasonable. The minority possess their equal rights which equal have must protect." Influenced by these principles & sanctioned by this authority, I shall legislate without a reference to men or to party. I shall not bestow extravagant favours on one printer to mortify or pusish another by the exclusion. to mortify or pusish another by the exclusion. I believe with Mr. Jefferson, that "every diffe-rence of opinion is not a difference of principle and that having banished from our load that Religious Intollerance under which mankind so long bled and suffered, we have yet gained little if we countenance a political intollerance as despote as wicked, and capable of as bitter persecutions." I wish to destroy this fraitful source of dissention ; it will ever prove the bane source of dissention ; it will ever prove the ban-of calm and temperate legislation, where the in-terests of our country are lost sight of in the ri-diculous contests of party. Let us obtain our work for the lowest price, & no longer disfran-chise a portion of our citizens, but put all upon a level, & act for our constituents as we would for ourselves; for we should make not enquiry their money is segurance ed, and the raw has to their money is segurance ed, and the raw has to their money is segurance ed, and the raw has to their money is segurance ed, and the raw has to their money is segurance ed, and the raw has to their money is segurance ed, and the raw has to their money is segurance ed, and the raw has to their money is segurance ed, and the raw has to the raw has to be

est bidder. And why shall exclusive iteism be extended to printers. A set by one workman any better the set by another workman ; they all same impression; there is no maric they are governed by a copy. T do not unke your laws. They d set the types, for the work is done upp, and apprentices.

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men and apprentices. We are told that the printer higher than at present. But the lao, Davis and Gales, may have it is too reason why we should the Gen. LOVE admitted that

mpetency of the House 16] e work, but he had prepare the work, but he had prepared a the a way for obtaining that information, a intended to offer to the house, as soon resolution now before it was decided, w would read to the house. [He was proce road when the Speaker informed him that, ing was out of order, as there was already a thou before the house.]

ing was out of orner, as there was already the before the house.] Major OWEN. To remove all doubt formation, I will submit a letter to the H will be deemed undeniable evidence. It that the public have been grossly imp the precent printer. Gen. LOVE. I wish to know where the

comes from.

Major OWEN. It speaks for in it is read it the gentleman can't under

and Abraham H. Boylan, stating that they contract to do the public prioting for nine dollars.

Mr. MUMFORD said that his resoluted read from the chair, and he hop-

would be taken upon it. The SPEAKER said the amendment gentleman from Rowan was in order and he put it to vote. The SPEAKER stated the question

put it to vote. The SPEAKER stated the question—and a vote the amendment w-s rejected. Gen. LOVE then introduced his resolution is an another which required the Transmission is certain the value of the public printing and m is certain the value of the public printing and m is certain the value of the public printing and m is certain the value of the public printing and m is certain the value of the public printing and m is certain the value of the public printing and m is certain the value of the public printing and m is certain the value of the public printing and m is certain the value of the public printing and m get rid of the question by shalling it off is into year. These indirect methods had here to be in resorted to. He thought if there exist grievance, it ought to be redressed now, and put it upon any future Assembly. Gen. LOVE said if any gentiement, would int how information could be better obtained would readily adopt it. Mr. W. W. JONES did not intend to have any thing upon this question, but he was forced by the extraordinary resolution which had be proposed. How are our Treasurer and heat be partments to obtain information that we can obtain. It seems from the presimble to the re-ition that they are to seek it in other States. We they enquire in Charleston or Philadeiphis w is the worth of printing here. This is minure to which can be obtained only on the spot. here we slready know from a letter justread to House what the public printing can be done for But this is pot the first time this question has be played off, and are we to expect it year after year Mr. King, of Sampson, once attempted an esquite it was then played off, and are it would be next in

into the religious or political principles of any workmen we might employ, if we were to com-

workmen we might employ, if we were to com-pensate them from our own pockets. Gen. LOVE would state for the information of the House, what had been asserted the last Session by Mr. Blackledge, that though Con-gress had let out their printing to the lowest bidder they were getting sick of it. There was a combination among the prin nd but one bid for it, and the printing w out 25 per cent higher than it ever had been done for before.

Mr. SEAWELL would now remark what he had omitted when up before, that the gen-deman from Haywood's declarations seemed to be at variance with each other. He at first deemed an enquiry useless and improper, but in some after observations he professes his was done away, we should instantly obtain the willingness for an enquiry. He has said that ared knowledge. It was not necessary to con their language, we shall certainly believe in their actions. If they will do the printing for a thousand dollars or any smaller sum we are bound to give no more. If there is a spirit of

rivalship and jealousy among the printers so much the better for the state, for it will ensure it against the combinations which are dreaded.

The gentleman has quoted Mr. Blackledge for authority, that Congress loose 25 per cent by letting out, their printing to the lowest bidder. I am certainly, said Mr. S. disposed to pay all due respect to Mir. Blackledge's assertions, for I have a respect for all gentlemen alike. But we do not hear that Congress have changed the mode of getting their printing done, which is a proof that the gentleman must have been mistaken.

Fears are apprehended that if the public printing is let out to the lowest hidder that M will be a means of banishing some of the printera from this city. This is an imaginary spectre which will frighten nobody. Printers are daily multiplying, and there can be nothing to apprehended either from a want of them or from a combination, We hear of no combination among workmen to build Court houses,

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kept in ignorance any longer. It is our

perform. He was however opposed to part work up to the lowest bidder. In Congre-printing he understood was done under the diate superintendance of the Secretary of which reduced the actual printing to a mete chanical operation. Here it is different. quired talent and impose wished to consult economy, but he would not over merit in pursuit of it. Mr. PHIFER said if the present es

printers in Faretteville, of to run through obtain it. We could not rely upon it.— The her of departments knew nothing of the business. I if it is put up to the lowest bidder the price will stantly rise or sink to its true value. Gen Love's amendment was rejected-Yeas 63

Nacs 65.

The question then recurred upon the Resolution.

Mr. D. JONES (of Granville) rose to g reasons for voting against the resolution, but called to order ; the main question having put

The Resolution was then adopted by yeas a nays as follows :

YEAS .- Messra Avery, Armfield, Aller, Adams, I Brittain, Bartierd, Boyd, T. Brown, C. Beyan, B Barringer, Borton, H. Beyan, Baie, Bateman, Brown, Blackman, Gathbertson, Caldwell, Cop Barunger, Burton, H. Berrin, Bulle, Buteman, Barun Brown, Blackman, Gattibertson, Caldwall, Copeland, Idengh, Garr, Camp, Cameron, Chambens, Carchy, Gu Carter, G. L. Davidson G. W. Davidson, Brana, E. Frink, Eolsern, Gimore, Glisson, Guy, Gold, Ganty, G man, Gilchrisi, Henderson, Boke, Hannah, Mansell, Stan, (Anson) B. Jones, K. Jones, W. W. Jones, E. Jr A. Jones, Kilpstrick, Lenoir, Leonard, Lanier, L. M'Dowell, Moodr, Mosely, Matthows, Nauze, J. S. Son, Norsworthy, Owen, Pulkham, Philer, Panne, Far Peide, Reif, Russ, Roberts, Neid, Raitey, Stellman, herd, H. Smith, N. Smith, Snawell, M. E. Shayar, D ver, Thomas, Vouhook, Jaz Williams, Junas Wilk Ed. Williams, Webb, Wright, Wade --D: NAYS-Munars, T. Bell, B. Bell, Barber, Ball Chark, Douglass, Edmunds, Felton, R. Bisson, Jones, Je ets, Gamble, Gentry, Hudgus, Hoyle, Immo, Far Huffe, Heisne, Meines, Folton, R. Bisson, Jones, Je Webba, Speller Scott, J. Thompson, B. Thompson, N. Williams, H. G. Williams, Wilson, -Soc N. Williams, H. G. Williams, Will