

We, the people of the Confederate States, each State acting in its sovereign and independent character, in order to form a permanent federal government, establish justice, insure domestic tranquillity, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity—

do hereby declare our independence, and do hereby establish this Constitution for the Confederate States of America.

ARTICLE I.—Section 1.

All legislative powers herein delegated shall be vested in a Congress of the Confederate States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

Section 2.

The House of Representatives shall be composed of members chosen every second year by the people of the several States; and the electors in each State shall have the qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the State Legislature; but no person shall be a Representative who shall not have attained to the age of twenty-five years, and be a citizen of the Confederate States, and who shall not, when elected, be an inhabitant of that State in which he shall be chosen.

Section 3.

Representatives and direct taxes shall be apportioned among the several States, which may be included within this Confederacy according to their respective numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole number of free persons, including those bound to service for a term of years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three-fifths of all slaves.

Section 4.

When vacancies happen in the Representation from any State, the Executive authority thereof shall issue writs of election to fill such vacancies.

Section 5.

The House of Representatives shall choose their Speaker and other officers, and shall have the sole power of impeachment, except that any judicial or other federal officer residing and setting solely within the limits of any State, may be impeached by a vote of two-thirds of both branches of the Legislature thereof.

Section 6.

The Senate of the Confederate States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, chosen for six years by the Legislature thereof, at the regular session next immediately preceding the commencement of the term of service; and each Senator shall have one vote.

Section 7.

Immediately after they shall be assembled, in consequence of the first election, they shall be divided equally as may be into three classes. The seats of the Senators of the first class shall be vacated at the expiration of the second year; of the second class at the expiration of the fourth year; and of the third class at the expiration of the sixth year; so that one-third may be chosen every second year; and if vacancies happen by resignation or otherwise during the recess of the Legislature of any State, the Executive thereof may make temporary appointments until the next meeting of the Legislature, which shall then fill such vacancies.

Section 8.

No person shall be a Senator who shall not have attained the age of thirty years, and be a citizen of the Confederate States, and who shall not, when elected, be an inhabitant of the State for which he shall be chosen.

Section 9.

The Vice President of the Confederate States shall be President of the Senate, but shall have no vote, unless he be equally divided.

Section 10.

The Senate shall choose their other officers, and the President pro tempore in the absence of the President, or when he shall exercise the office of President of the Confederate States.

Section 11.

The Senate shall have the sole power to try all impeachments. When sitting for that purpose, they shall be on oath or affirmation. When the President of the Confederate States shall be tried, the Chief Justice shall preside; and no person shall be convicted without the concurrence of two-thirds of the members present.

Section 12.

Judgment in cases of impeachment shall not extend further than to removal from office, and disqualification to hold and enjoy any office of honor, trust or profit, under the Confederate States; but the party convicted shall nevertheless be liable and subject to indictment, trial, judgment and punishment, according to law.

Section 13.

The times, places and manner of holding elections for Senators and Representatives shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof, subject to the provisions of this Constitution; but the Congress may, at any time, by law make or alter such regulations, except as to the times and places of choosing Senators.

Section 14.

The Congress shall assemble at least once in every year, and such meeting shall be on the first Monday in December, unless they shall, by law, appoint a different day.

Section 15.

Each House shall be the judge of the elections, returns and qualifications of its own members, and the majority of each shall constitute a quorum to do business, but a smaller number may adjourn from day to day, and may be authorized to compel the attendance of absent members, in such manner and under such penalties as each House may provide.

Section 16.

Each House may punish its members for disorderly behavior, and, with the concurrence of two-thirds of the whole number, expel a member.

Section 17.

Each House shall keep a journal of its proceedings, and from time to time publish the same, excepting such parts as may in their judgment require secrecy, and the yeas and nays of the members of either House, on any question, shall, at the desire of two-thirds of those present, be entered on the journal.

Section 18.

Neither House, during the session of Congress, shall, without the consent of the other, adjourn for more than three days, nor to any other place than that in which the two Houses shall be sitting.

Section 19.

The Senators and Representatives shall receive a compensation for their services, to be ascertained by law, and paid out of the treasury of the Confederate States. They shall, in all cases, except treason, felony and breach of the peace be privileged from arrest during their attendance at the session of their respective Houses, and in going to and returning from the same; and for any speech or debate in either House they shall not be questioned in any other place.

Section 20.

No Senator or Representative shall, during the time for which he was elected, be appointed to any civil office under the authority of the Confederate States which shall have been created, or the emolument of which shall have been increased during such term whereof shall be a member of either House during his continuance in office. But Congress may, by law, grant to the principal officer in each of the Executive Departments a seat upon the floor of either House, with the privilege of discussing any measures appertaining to his department.

Section 21.

All bills for raising revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives; but the Senate may propose or concur with amendments as on other bills.

Section 22.

Loans by bill which have passed both Houses shall, before it becomes a law, be presented to the

President of the Confederate States; if he approve, he shall sign it; but if not, he shall return it with his objections to that House in which it shall have originated, who shall enter the objections at large on their journal and proceed to reconsider it. If, after such reconsideration, two-thirds of that House shall agree to pass the bill, it shall be sent, together with the objections, to the other House, by which it shall likewise be reconsidered, and if approved by two-thirds of that House it shall become a law. But in all such cases the yeas and nays of the persons voting for and against the bill shall be entered on the journal of each House respectively. If any bill shall not be returned by the President within ten days (Sundays excepted) after it shall have been presented to him, the same shall be a law, in like manner as if he had signed it, unless the Congress, by their adjournment, prevent its return; in which case it shall not be a law. The President may approve any appropriation and disapprove any other appropriation in the same bill. In such case, he shall, in signing the bill, designate the appropriations disapproved, and shall return a copy of such appropriations, with his objections, to the House in which the bill shall have originated; and the same proceedings shall then be had as in case of other bills disapproved by the President.

Section 2.

Every order, resolution or vote, to which the concurrence of both Houses may be necessary (except on a question of adjournment) shall be presented to the President of the Confederate States; and before he shall take effect, shall be approved by him; or being disapproved by him, may be re-passed by two-thirds of both Houses according to the rules and limitations prescribed in case of a bill.

Section 3.

The Congress shall have power— 1. To lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises for revenue purposes; to pay the debts, provide for the common defence, and carry on the government of the Confederate States; but no duties shall be granted from the Treasury, nor shall any duties or taxes on imports from foreign nations be laid to promote or foster any branch of industry; and all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the Confederate States.

Section 4.

To borrow money on the credit of the Confederate States.

Section 5.

To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian tribes; but neither this, nor any other clause contained in the Constitution, shall ever be construed to delegate the power to Congress to appropriate money for any internal improvement intended to facilitate commerce, except for the purpose of furnishing lights, beacons and buoys, and aid to navigation upon the coasts, and the improvement of harbors and the removing of obstructions in river navigation, in all which cases such duties shall be laid on the navigation facilitated thereby as may be necessary to pay the costs and expenses thereof.

Section 6.

To establish uniform laws of naturalization, and uniform laws on the subject of bankruptcies, throughout the Confederate States; but no law of Congress shall discharge any debt contracted before the passage of the same.

Section 7.

To coin money, regulate the value thereof and of foreign coin, and fix the standard of weights and measures.

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To provide for the punishment of counterfeiting securities and current coin of the Confederate States.

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To establish post offices and post routes; but the expenses of the Post office Department, after the first day of March in the year of our lord eighteen hundred and sixty-three, shall be paid out of its own revenues.

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To exercise exclusive legislation, in all cases which may relate to such district (not exceeding three square miles) as may, by cession of one or more States and the acceptance of Congress, become the seat of the government of the Confederate States; and to exercise like authority over all places purchased by the consent of the Legislature of the State in which the same shall be, for the erection of forts, magazines, arsenals, dockyards and other needful buildings; and to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the Confederate States, or in any department or officer thereof.

Section 20.

The importation of negroes of the African race from any foreign country other than the slaveholding States or Territories of the United States of America, is hereby forbidden; and Congress is required to pass such laws as shall effectually prevent the same.

Section 21.

Congress shall also have power to prohibit the introduction of slaves from any State not a member of, or Territory not belonging to, this Confederacy.

Section 22.

The privilege of writ of habeas corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in cases of rebellion or invasion the public safety may require it.

Section 23.

No bill of attainder, or ex post facto law, or law denying or impairing the right of property in negro slaves shall be passed.

Section 24.

No capitation or other direct tax shall be laid in proportion to the census or enumeration hereinafter provided to be taken.

Section 25.

No tax or duty shall be laid on articles exported from any State, except by a vote of two-thirds of both Houses.

Section 26.

No preferences shall be given by any regulation of commerce or revenue to the ports of one State over those of another.

Section 27.

No money shall be drawn from the treasury, but in consequence of appropriations made by law; and a regular statement and account of the receipts and expenditures of all public money shall be published from time to time.

Section 28.

Congress shall appropriate no money from the treasury except by a vote of two-thirds of both Houses, and no money shall be drawn from the treasury, but in consequence of appropriations made by law; and a regular statement and account of the receipts and expenditures of all public money shall be published from time to time.

Section 29.

No person except a natural born citizen of the Confederate States, or a citizen thereof at the time of the adoption of this constitution, or a citizen thereof born in the United States prior to the 20th of December, 1860, shall be eligible to the office of President; neither shall any person be eligible to that office who shall not have attained the age of thirty-five years, and been fourteen years a resident within the limits of the Confederate States, as may exist at the time of his election.

Section 30.

In case of the removal of the President from office, or of his death, resignation, or inability to discharge the powers and duties of the said office, the same shall devolve on the Vice President; and if no Vice President shall have been chosen, then the electors, and the day on which they shall give their votes, which day shall be the same throughout the Confederate States.

Section 31.

The Congress may determine the time of choosing the electors, and the day on which they shall give their votes, which day shall be the same throughout the Confederate States.

Section 32.

No person shall be a Representative who shall not have attained to the age of twenty-five years, and be a citizen of the Confederate States, and who shall not, when elected, be an inhabitant of the State for which he shall be chosen.

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