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Legislative Proceedings. SENATE. THURSDAY, Jan 29, '63. Senate called to order by Speaker Mebane.

Prayer by the Rev. Henry Hardie. Journal read. Maj. Willie D. Jones, Senator elect from Wake in place of Col. Russ, appeared, was duly qualified, and took his seat.

Mr. White, a bill to establish and incorporate Vestal's Ford Toll Bridge on the Catawba river. Referred.

Mr. Smith of Macon, by leave, presented a resolution requesting the Governor to correspond with the Governor of Georgia, in regard to the purchase of a duplicate machine for the manufacture of cotton cards and wire.

Mr. Drake moved to amend by inserting "to be the property of, and worked on account of the State," which was accepted by Mr. Smith. Referred to a special Committee.

Also, an engrossed bill extending the provisions of the bill passed at the former session entitled "An Act for the relief of the families of deceased soldiers," in case of the death of the mother, to the next of kin.

Mr. Brown offered an amendment that in case of the absence of the father for the term of six years, not being heard from, money due the son, shall be paid the mother surviving.

Mr. Eare moved to insert one year in lieu of six, which amendment was accepted by Mr. Brown. The amendment as amended then passed, and the bill under a suspension of the rules passed its third and last reading.

On motion the Senate adjourned to 10 o'clock, Wednesday.

HOUSE OF COMMONS. TUESDAY, Jan. 20. The Speaker called the House of Commons to order at half past ten o'clock.

The roll was called by the Clerk, and a quorum being present, the House proceeded to business.

Mr. Foust, of Randolph, and Mr. Smith, of Washington, members elect, from the counties named, were qualified and took their seats.

The Speaker laid before the House a communication from the Hon. R. M. Saunders, transmitting a presentment from the Grand Jurors of Polk and Cleveland counties, relative to the refusal of certain persons to take Confederate notes, and presenting as a public grievance the exemption, from Conscription of Justices of the Peace under forty-five years old, and also the exemption of militia officers within the same age, also, extortion on the necessities of life. Referred to the Committee on Propositions and Grievances.

Be it further resolved, That North Carolina is a free and independent sovereign State, and will use all constitutional means to defend her rights and liberties from insult and oppression from whatever quarter it may come.

Mr. Shepherd announced the death of one of the members from Craven. Writs of election were ordered to fill the vacancies, on the 29th instant.

Mr. Costner introduced a bill to legalize the proceedings of a county court of Lincoln county said proceedings having been irregular. Passed its several readings under a suspension of the rules.

Mr. Peebles introduced a bill relative to the emancipation of slaves, by last will and testament. Referred.

Mr. Henry, of Bertie, a bill to authorize the Governor to employ a messenger for the Executive office. Passed its several readings under a suspension of the rules.

Mr. Richardson introduced a resolution in favor of Gideon B. Threadgill, allowing him to collect arrears of taxes. Passed its several readings under a suspension of the rules.

Mr. Barringer, asked and obtained leave of absence for Mr. Flemming for six days.

Mr. Shepherd introduced a bill to amend an Ordinance of the Convention relative to the Treasury. [Allows the Comptroller to employ assistance in signing Treasury notes.] Passed its several readings under a suspension of the rules.

Mr. Brown introduced a bill to amend an Act, changing the jurisdiction of the Courts, and altering the rules of pleading. Referred.

On motion of Mr. Watson, the Revenue Bill was made the special order for Wednesday next.

On motion of Mr. Waddell, a Committee was appointed to wait on his Excellency the Governor, and inform him that both Houses of the Legislature were again assembled, and would be pleased to receive any communication he might desire to make.

Mr. Young introduced a resolution in favor of Charles Byrd—allows him to collect arrears of taxes. Passed its several readings under a suspension of the rules.

Mr. Bryan introduced a resolution in favor of Martin Walker, late sheriff, allows him to collect arrears of taxes. Passed its several readings.

Mr. Waddell, from the committee appointed to wait on the Governor, reported that the committee had discharged their duty, and that the Governor would communicate with the Legislature in writing on to-morrow, at twelve o'clock.

On motion of Mr. Shepherd, the House took up for consideration, a bill to authorize the incorporation of towns of the State to levy an ad valorem tax on slaves. The bill passed its second and third readings.

On motion of Mr. McCormick, the House took up for consideration a bill to incorporate the Western North Carolina Copper Mining and Smelting Company.

whole subject, was lying on the table of the Senate. On motion of Mr. Sharpe, the bill, substitute, and amendment were laid on the table, and the House bill (commonly called the ten regiment bill) was taken up for consideration on its second reading.

Mr. Brown moved to postpone until to-morrow 12 o'clock. Carried. A resolution authorizing the Adjutant General to pay the Clerk of Harnett, money expended by the County for the subsistence of Capt. Marchison's cavalry company was taken up.

Mr. Sharpe thought this claim should go to the Auditor's Office, and moved to lay it on the table.

Mr. Wright deprecated the delay which this course would require, stating that the county of Aernott was in need of the money. It was a just debt and should be paid promptly, as the company had been of great service in arresting and confining traitors.

Mr. Graham coincided with Mr. Sharpe in his views, and thought it improper for the Legislature to interfere with the legitimate business of the Auditor's office. Motion to lay on the table prevailed.

A message was received from the House concurring in the amendments of the Senate to the bill to provide for the families of soldiers dying in the service.

The engrossed bill in regard to the service of process on the Southern Express Company, was on motion of Mr. Graham, referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

A message was received from the House, transmitting the following engrossed bills and resolutions, which passed their first reading.

A resolution assigning the office of State Geologist to the Engrossing Clerks. Adopted.

A resolution in favor of M. Walker.

A resolution in favor of Gideon B. Threadgill.

A bill to legalize certain acts of the County Court of Lincoln County.

A bill to authorize the Governor to employ a messenger for the Executive department.

A bill to authorize the Treasurer to employ a clerk, to sign bonds.

A bill to authorize Corporations to lay and valorem tax on slaves.

A resolution in favor of Charles Bird. The bill to appoint a Treasurer for the Literary Board was read the second time, and, on motion of Mr. Matthews, laid on the table.

A bill granting certain powers to salt commissioners passed its several readings. Mr. Graham presented a bill amendatory to the bill passed at the last session, entitled "An act to change the jurisdiction of the Courts and the rules of pleading." Ordered to be printed and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

The resolutions in regard to clothing prisoners at Salisbury was referred to the Committee on Propositions and Grievances.

On the motion the Senate then adjourned to 10 o'clock, Thursday.

HOUSE OF COMMONS. WEDNESDAY, Jan. 21. The House met pursuant to adjournment. The Journal of Tuesday was read.

Mr. Amis introduced a resolution granting the use of the Commons Halls this evening to the Young Men's Christian Association, for the delivery of a Lecture before that body. Concurred in.

Mr. Waddell introduced a resolution relative to a notice published in the city papers, inviting Robert E. Walker, Provost Marshal, to receive the citizens of Raleigh and all other persons to procure passes before leaving the city, requesting the Governor to procure from the Confederate Government permits for all members of the General Assembly and the officers of the same to pass and re-pass from and to Raleigh or elsewhere within the Confederate lines, without being subjected to the order of the said Robert E. Walker, Provost Marshal.

Mr. Peebles opposed the resolution, and said he was opposed to asking an exemption from members of the Legislature. He did not think that they should be exempt while other citizens of the State were held subject to the order.

Mr. Foy said he hoped the resolution would pass. He knew of no legal authority for this system of requiring loyal citizens to procure passes before they were allowed to pass. He had himself been seriously inconvenienced by it. He could see no necessity for it here, and as he thought it contrary to the law and the rights of our people, he hoped that the resolution would pass.

Mr. Peebles again addressed the House against the resolutions.

Mr. Foy interrupted Mr. P. to enquire whence the authority was derived to establish this Provost Marshal passport system.

Mr. Waddell said that during the early part of this session that one of his colleagues had been arrested by a guard acting under the orders of the same Mr. R. E. Walker that had just issued this card. He then had called the attention of the House to the matter, and an investigation being had, resulted in an apology to the House for the indignity. It would have been an easy matter for this Lieut. Walker to have exempted the members of the Legislature from the effects of this order, but he had not been done. It might be that it was an effort on the part of this officer to avenge himself for the former action of this Legislature. He did not know that any such motive influenced him—could not say that it did; but it was clearly subject to such construction. He therefore hoped that the resolution would pass.

Mr. Foy proposed the following as a substitute: Resolved, That a select Committee of five be appointed to enquire into the power under which Lieut. R. E. Walker, calling himself Provost Marshal, requires all citizens to obtain passes before they leave the city of Raleigh, and to obtain passes before they leave Raleigh, and to report by bill or otherwise.

Mr. Fowle thought that the time had come when we should inquire whether martial law can be declared elsewhere than in the vicinity of the enemy, without some cause existing to require it, or at least some reason assigned therefor. He wanted to reach it by principle. This officer's notice gave no authority for his action. If his memory was not at fault the Confederate Congress had granted this power at one time, but he thought the limitation had expired, and that an extension of the time had not yet been concurred in by that body.

He hoped therefore as his substitute was more comprehensive, that his friend from Chatham (Mr. Waddell) would accept it.

Mr. Waddell said that he preferred his resolution.

Mr. Fowle said he wanted to ascertain if the power had been properly given, and if in accordance with law. If it had been, as in such as he might doubt the propriety of the course, he was for submitting to it.

The question was then put and the substitute concurred in, and Messrs. Fowle, Grissom, Peebles, Foy, and Allison appointed the committee under it.

A message was received from the Senate transmitting an engrossed bill from the House, amending an ordinance of the Convention, providing relief for the families of deceased soldiers, with an amendment by that body. The amendment was concurred in by the House.

Mr. Costner introduced a resolution in favor of Daniel Tucker, of Lincoln county. Referred to the Committee on Claims.

Mr. Foy introduced a series of resolutions relative to the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus in Salisbury and other portions of the State. Requiring the Governor to call a special court in Salisbury, for the trial of such citizens of this State as have been imprisoned there, under a suspension of this writ.

Mr. Foy addressed the House at some length in support of the resolutions, taking strong ground against the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus, and dealing heavy blows at the tendency to override civil by the military power, giving instances coming within his own knowledge, of true and loyal citizens having been arrested and imprisoned, without a hearing. Mr. Foy spoke at length.

On motion of Mr. McKay the House proceeded to consider a bill from the Senate for the relief of landlors. The bill was amended and passed its several readings.

The hour having arrived for the consideration of the special order, the House proceeded to the consideration of the Revenue bill.

A number of amendments were proposed, some of which were concurred in, pending the consideration, the following message was received from His Excellency, Governor Vance:

To the Honorable, the General Assembly of North Carolina. With the flight of time great events have occurred and are now crowding upon us.

Since your adjournment in December, the invaders of our State have concentrated a large force upon our coast, and are again threatening our remaining seaports and lines of communication. Every preparation possible has been made to resist them, and it is hoped not without success. Still much remains to be done to strengthen our army and add to its efficiency. I beg leave respectfully to offer a few suggestions to you on this subject.

The most serious evils with which our generals have to contend are the inefficient execution of the conscript law and the alarming increase of desertion in the army. A long absence from home, and the severe hardships of our rapid and wonderful campaigns, naturally tend to produce these effects during a protracted war. To arrest these delinquents and return them to duty, the militia have heretofore been employed with some degree of success; but lately they have been found inefficient owing to the many obstacles interposed by the law. Should an officer start out to arrest a deserter, the friends of the latter have only to give the alarm and he is spirited out of the way or the officer is resisted by open violence.

As desertion is not a crime known to the laws of this State, these persons who thus shield the deserter from arrest are liable to no punishment. The consequence is that in many parts of the State, are concealed together for company and mutual protection, depraved upon the citizens near them, thus forming a kind of outlaw population in the midst of our quiet and orderly people.

The state of things, ruinous alike to the discipline of our army and the morals of our people, ought not to be suffered to continue, and might be prevented in my opinion by a little prudent legislation. With the consent of the highest military authorities from whose commands they are absent, I propose to give absences from the army without leave, by proclamation, thirty days in which they may return to duty free of punishment, and after that time to make them liable for the delay, to the severest penalties of the law. To enable the authorities to effect their arrest, I recommend, as I had the honor to do it in my regular message to you that the militia laws be so amended as to subject both officers and privates of any particular company or regiment of the militia to the articles of war, when ordered to perform any duty of this kind at the discretion of the Executive; that power be given the Executive summary to drop from the rolls officers guilty of gross and willful neglect of duty, and that it be made a crime to shield or harbor deserters or to assist them to avoid capture. Should it be deemed best to continue to use the militia of the State for executing the Conscript law, these amendments will be indispensable, as Congress has failed in these respects to provide for the enforcement of its own acts.

I have been applied to in several instances as the appointing power of the regimental officers of our regiments raised originally for three years or the war, to promote men for gallant and meritorious conduct, but on close examination of the law I find I have no authority to deviate from the regular order of promotion by seniority in the appointment of company officers.

This power ought to reside somewhere—the good of the service requires it. The humblest private in the ranks of the army ought to feel that there is the power and the will to lift him above the humble position to a commissioned officer, a reward for gallantry and heroism.

Mr. Hall called for the year and says. Mr. Ellis said he would vote against the amendment as he did not wish to be dictated to by the President or any one else as to how he should vote. He would, however, vote against the bill.

Mr. Brown agreed with Mr. Ellis, and said he would maintain the doctrine of State Rights and States sovereignty at all hazards. The amendment failed to pass, yeas 13, noes 27.

Mr. Ellis moved to insert a preamble declaring that the State of North Carolina intends no conflict with the Confederate Government, but merely to carry out the provisions of the former act.

Mr. Sharpe thought the preamble premature. The yeas and noes being called the amendment was lost; yeas 18, noes 24.

Mr. Merrill offered an amendment to the effect that no one subject to conscription, shall be enrolled in this State force, unless, in the opinion of the Governor it appears that such enrollment will not interfere with existing agreements between the State and Confederate Government in regard to the enrollment of conscripts, and declaring that the Legislature expresses no opinion as to the constitutionality of the conscript law. The amendment was rejected; yeas 5, noes 37.

Mr. Lindsay said he regretted to see a disposition on the part of Senators to retard this bill. He thought its early passage of the utmost importance, and was demanded at the hands of this Legislature by their constituents. These troops were asked for State defence. The Confederate Government had sent troops at the eleventh hour to North Carolina, for the purpose of indirectly defending Richmond. Other States had their reserves, and he saw no cause of conflict with the General Government.

Mr. Lane offered an amendment excepting from this enrollment those in service or subject to conscription. Mr. Lane thought the bill if passed in its present form was calculated to bring about a direct conflict with the conscription, and thought that the troops could be raised out of citizens exempt from conscription, such as magistrates, militia officers, &c.

Mr. Taylor of C. said that he thought the Senate made of such material as not to be intimidated in the discharge of its duty by the attacks of hireling presses and people. Thought the passage of the bill a necessity; could see no cause of conflict, and hoped that the introduction of these factious amendments would cease and that the bill would pass.

Mr. Lindsay said he knew of no portion of the State now in the hands of the enemy that had given it the defeuse its importance entitled it to. Mr. Copeland opposed the passage of the bill unless Mr. Lane's amendment was incorporated. Wished to uphold and support the Confederate Government, and thought the passage of this bill calculated to bring about conflict, and that it would tarnish the bright escutcheon of the State.

Mr. Copeland said there was a feeling in the State of hostility to the Confederate Government, which was being continually encouraged by a public journal published in this city. He thought the passage of this bill calculated to bring on a revolution in the State.

Mr. Smith of Macon, briefly advocated the passage of the bill, stating that the conscript law had been enforced more thoroughly in North Carolina than in other States. Mr. Young opposed the bill in a speech of some length. He thought that in passing this bill the Legislature would be virtually breaking faith with the General Government, and the other States of the Confederacy. He read an act of the Legislature of Virginia, showing that the conscriptions of that State were exempt from conscription. He also argued that the same was the case in South Carolina, and that the two regiments of Georgia reserves were organized as a police force for the protection of the lines of railroad in that State.

The Senate then adjourned, Mr. Lane's amendment pending.

HOUSE OF COMMONS. THURSDAY Jan. 22. The House met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Rev. J. M. Atkinson. Wednesday's Journal was read.

A communication from the Board of Claims was read and ordered to be sent to the Senate.

A message was received from the Senate proposing to raise a Joint Committee of five, to examine the various apartments of the Capitol, and to assign the rooms to the different officers in such manner as to facilitate public business. Concurred in.