

PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

SENATE.

FRIDAY, JAN. 11, 1861.

The Speaker called the Senate to order at 10 o'clock.

Journal of yesterday read and approved.

Mr. Watson presented the proceedings of, and a series of resolutions, to be read in the morning in Johnston county. Read and laid on the table.

Mr. Walker, Union resolutions from a public meeting in Anson county. Read and laid on the table.

Mr. Blount, Union resolutions from a public meeting in Pitt county. Read and laid on the table.

Mr. Wadsworth, a memorial from citizens of Pasquotank, relative to the military brigade in that district. Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. Brown, from the Committee on Banks and Currency, reported back the bill to incorporate the Bank of Thomsville, recommending its passage.

Placed on the Calendar. Mr. Walker, from the Committee on Military Affairs, reported back the memorial from the Independent Guards, in Elizabeth City, and asked to be discharged from its further consideration.

Discharged accordingly.

A message was received from the House of Commons, announcing the concurrence of that body in the proposition of the Senate to raise a joint select committee on the petition of the citizens of the State of North Carolina, and announcing the House branch of the Committee.

The Speaker appointed Messrs. Lane and Humphreys as the Senate branch of said Committee.

Mr. Humphreys, from the Committee on Corporations, reported back the bill to amend the charter of the town of Newbern, recommending its passage.

Mr. Ware introduced a bill to incorporate the Albemarle Guards, in the town of Edenton.

Read first time, passed, and referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. Erwin, from the Committee on Military Affairs, reported back the bill to revise and amend the militia system of the State, and moved that the same be printed. Agreed to.

This bill to prevent the felling of timber in certain streams in Hertford county, was read the 3d time.

Mr. Slaughter offered a slight amendment to the bill, which was accepted. The bill then passed.

The bill to prevent the emancipation of slaves by will was read the third time.

Mr. Morehead said he desired to express his views at length upon the bill, and asked to have it passed over informally. Agreed to.

The bill concerning certain Cherokee and Robeson counties read third time, and passed over informally.

The hour of 11 o'clock having arrived, the Senate resolved itself into a Convention, to be held for the consideration of the bill to call a Convention. Mr. Speight in the Chair.

The question being on the substitute offered by Mr. Avery.

Mr. Blodgett was in favor of the bill calling a Convention, provided it could be carried by a constitutional majority of both branches of the Legislature.

He thought his constituents desired, and had the right, to be in Convention on the subject of our Federal relations.

He did not wish to be the action of that Convention, he deemed it unwise and highly imprudent at this particular time, when the country is actually in a state of anarchy.

The hour of 11 o'clock having arrived, the Senate went into a committee of the whole on the convention bill—Mr. Hill in the Chair.

Mr. Polk introduced a resolution, and addressed the House at considerable length in favor of the bill, and defined his position on the general subjects growing out of the proposition.

Having concluded his remarks, he moved the amendment of the bill, and requested the yeas and nays.

Mr. Harris addressed the committee, defining his position on the subject of a convention, and he was for exhausting all constitutional remedies before precipitating the old North State into the vortex of disunion.

He said, however, that he did not have much hope of such an adjustment as would prevent our falling into the hands of a central confederacy, provided we had to dissolve our connection with the present government.

During his speech he read an address, which he presented to the committee, and which he believed to be a very able and patriotic one.

Mr. Merrimon called for a division of the question.

Mr. Davis of Rutherford, moved that the committee report progress, and ask leave to sit again on Monday next at half past 11 o'clock.

Mr. Hoke opposed the motion; he wanted the committee to pass the bill in such a shape as to make it acceptable, and if no one else wished to amend the committee he proposed to do so.

Mr. Marsh thought the committee not to be proceeding in order, he conceived the amendment of the gentleman from Wayne.

Mr. Hoke said he did not take issue with the gentleman from Wayne, (Mr. Marsh), on that point, but he wished to be called a traitor; and if any of our people are to be hanged for entertaining such sentiments, he hoped that he himself would be the first man, as, in his opinion, he could not die in a better cause.

Mr. Sharpe spoke against the passage of the bill. His constituents, he said, were nearly all for the Union and the enforcement of the laws.

He said, if a Convention were called, it would be made to alter the present basis of representation. He knew that such an intention had been disclaimed on the part of Western Senators on this floor, and as far as they were individually concerned, he did not wish to impugn their motives, but he well knew the long cherished desire of the West to alter the present basis, so that their representation might be increased.

Also, the distribution of the school fund, upon the whole basis, presented a tempting bait, which he feared the Western people might not be willing entirely to forego.

Mr. S. spoke at some length in relation to the present condition of the country. He thought that the Federal Government ought to enforce its laws, and that all conservative men ought to stand by the stars and stripes.

Mr. Burton made a very pointed speech in favor of the bill, and stated that he had no objection to a Convention, but he was in favor of a more honorable title than that of a submissionist, and declared that he had rather see his wife and children in the hands of the executioner, than live under a submissionist.

Mr. Brown made a very powerful and eloquent appeal in favor of the passage of the bill, taking the ground that the great question of Union or disunion was paramount at this time.

He did not wish any other issues to be connected with it. Therefore, he favored the proposition to restrict the action of the Convention to the consideration of our Federal affairs alone, and wished the said action to be submitted to the people for their final ratification.

Messrs. Erwin, Brown and Burton continued the discussion on some length.

Mr. Burton, in the course of his remarks, stated that the Senator from Rowan had appropriated an epithet to himself (Mr. R.), that he (Mr. B.)

would be unwilling to apply to him. That that Senator had said that he was a white-headed submissionist.

Mr. Ramsey explained by saying that he made the remark in an ironical way, as applied to himself (Mr. B.) and his Union friends by others, not appropriated to himself.

Mr. Burton said he was happy to hear the explanation of the Senator.

Mr. Sharp again addressed the Senate in opposition to the bill, and in reply to Mr. Burton and others.

Mr. Barringer moved that the Committee rise, report progress, and ask leave to sit again on Monday at 10 o'clock. Agreed to.

Mr. Speight, Chairman of the Committee of the Whole, called the Senate to order at 12 o'clock. Agreed to.

On motion of Mr. Avery, the Senate adjourned until to-morrow at 10 o'clock.

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REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

By Mr. Waugh, from the committee on corporations, reported back a bill to incorporate the Carrollton Copper Mining Company of Baltimore, with amendments, recommending its passage.

By the same, a bill to incorporate the Chatham rail road company, with amendments, recommending that it do not pass; by Mr. Henry, from the committee on Enrolled Bills, reported back the following bills, as having been examined and found correct: A bill to amend the act in relation to the Turnpike in the county of Caswell, a bill to amend the act in relation to the Turnpike in the State, a bill allowing William Pollock, late Sheriff of Jones county, to collect arrears of taxes in Jones county, and a resolution in favor of Edward Yarbrough, and sent to the Senate.

Mr. Person, from the committee on Federal Relations, reported back the resolution against coercing a seceding State, and pledging resistance to such an attempt, by a substitute of like import, recommending its passage.

Mr. Merrimon moved the printing of the report of the committee, and making it the special order for Monday next at 11 o'clock. Concurred in.

Mr. Love, of Haywood, from the committee on Cherokee lands and Western turnpike, reported back a resolution in favor of Jesse Metcalf, recommending its passage.

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