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RECONSTRUCTION.

SUPPLEMENTARY RECONSTRUCTION BILL AS PASSED BY BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS.

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled. That it is hereby declared to have been the true intent and meaning of the act of the second day of March, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-seven, entitled an act for the more efficient government of the rebel States, and of the act supplementary thereto, passed on the 23d. day of March, in the year 1867, that the governments then existing in the rebel States of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana Florida, Texas and Arkansas, were illegal and void, and thereafter the same governments, if continued, were to be continued subject in all respects to the Military Commanders of the respective Districts and to the authority of Congress.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the commander of any district named in said act shall have power, subject to the approval of the General of the armies of the United States, to have effect till disapproved, whenever in the opinion of such commander the proper administration of said act shall require it, to suspend or remove from office, or from the performance of official duties and the exercise of official powers, any officer or person holding or exercising, or professing to hold or excercise, any civil or military office or duty in such district, under any power, election, appointment, or authority derived from or granted by, or claimed under any so-called State or the government thereof, or any municipal or other division thereof, and upon such suspension or removal such commander, subject to the approval of the General aforesaid, shall have the power to provide from time to time for the performance of the said duties of such officer or person so suspended or removed by the detail of some competent officer or soldier of the army or by the appointment of some other person to perform the same and to fill vacancies occasioned by death, resignation or otherwise.

SEC 3. *And be it further enacted*, That the General of the armies of the United States shall be invested with all the powers of suspension, removal, appointment and detail granted in the preceding section to district commanders.

SEC 4. *And it be further enacted*, That the acts of the officers of the army already done in removing in said districts persons exercising the functions of civil officers and appointing others in their stead are hereby confirmed; provided that any person heretofore or hereafter appointed by any district commander to exercise the functions of any civil office may be removed, either by the military officer in command of the district or by the General of the army; and it shall be the duty of commanders to remove from office, as aforesaid, all persons who are disloyal to the government of the United States, or who use their official influence in any manner to hinder, delay, prevent or obstruct the due and proper administration of this act, and the acts to which this is supplementary.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That the boards of registration provided for in the act entitled "an act supplementary to an act entitled 'an act to provide for the more efficient government of the rebel States,'" passed March 2, eighteen hundred and sixty-seven, shall have power, and it shall be their duty, before allowing registration of any person, to ascertain upon such facts or information as they can obtain, whether such person is entitled to be registered under said act, and the oath required by said act shall not be conclusive on such question, and no person shall be registered unless such board shall decide that he is entitled thereto; and such board shall also have power to examine under oath (to be administered by any member of such board) any one touching the qualification of any person claiming registration. But in every case of a refusal by the board to register an applicant, made in every case herein after provided, the board shall make a note or memorandum, which shall be returned with the registration list to the commanding Generals of the Districts, setting forth the ground of such refusal, or such striking from the lift: Provided, that no person shall be disqualified,—as a member of any board of registration, by reason of race or color.

SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That the true intent and meaning of the oath prescribed in said supplementary act is (among other things) that no person who has been a member of the Legislature or any State or who has held any executive or judicial office in any State, whether he has taken an oath to support the Constitution of the United States or not, and whether he was holding such office at the commencement of the rebellion or had held it before, and who has afterward engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the United States, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof, is entitled to be registered or to vote; and the words "executive or judicial office in any State" in said oath mentioned shall be construed to include all civil offices created by law for the administration of the general law of the State, or for the administration of justice.

SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted*, That the time for completing the original registration provided for in said act may, in the discretion of the commander of any district, be extended to the 1st day of October, 1867; and the boards of registration shall have power, and it shall be their duty, commencing fourteen days prior to any election under said act, and upon reasonable public notice of the time and place thereof, to revise for a period of three days the registration lists; and upon being satisfied that any person not entitled thereto has been registered, to strike the name of such person from the list. And such board shall also, during the same period, add to such registry the names of all persons who at that time possess the qualifications required by said act who have not been already registered, and no person shall at any time be entitled to be registered or to vote by reason of any executive pardon or amnesty for any act or thing which, without such pardon or amnesty, would disqualify him from registration or voting.

SEC. 8. *And be it further enacted*, That section 4 of the said last named act shall be construed to authorize the commanding general named therein, whenever he shall deem it needful, to remove any member of a board of registration, and to appoint another person in his stead, and to fill any vacancy in such board.

SEC. 9. That all members of said Boards of Registration and all persons hereafter elected or appointed to office in said military districts, under any so-called State or municipal authority or by detail or appointment of the District Commanders, shall be required to take and subscribe to the oath of office prescribed by law for officers of the United States.

SEC. 10. That no District Commander or member of the Board of registration or any of the officers or appointees acting under them shall be bound in his action by any opinion of any civil officer of the United States.

SEC. 11. That all the provisions of this act, and the acts to which this is supplementary, shall be construed liberally, to the end that all the intents thereof may be fully and perfectly carried out.

This bill has been passed by both Houses of Congress and sent to the President for his approval.

PLATFORM OF THE NATIONAL UNION REPUBLICAN PARTY.

The delegates representing the loyal people of North Carolina, assembled in Convention in the city of Raleigh, on the 5th day of September, 1867, for the purpose of perfecting and strengthening the organization of the Republican Party in the State, and in order to aid in the great work of preserving and perpetuating this Union:

Resolve, That the Republican party in North Carolina reaffirms the principles enunciated in the Convention of true Republicans which assembled in this city on 27th day of March, and does fully accept, adopt and sustain the principles and measures of the Republican party of the United States.

2nd, The confiscation of private property for political offences, is repugnant to Republican liberty and ought not to be resorted to, except as an inexorable necessity to save the life of the nation, after all other means have been tried; and the Republican party in North Carolina does not consider that the present condition of public affairs justifies the confiscation of private property, and hopes that no such necessity will arise.

3rd, In order to carry into effect the principles of universal liberty and civil and political equality, every male citizen of the age of twenty-one years ought to be allowed to vote in all popular elections, and be freely admitted to the ballot-box, unrestrained by compulsion, threats or violence: and such are of the requirements of the proposed constitutional amendment, so far as it relates to the question of suffrage.

4th, That while the Republican party in North Carolina faithfully and energetically sustains the policy of Congress on the subject of reconstruction, and will spare no effort to secure, under it, the restoration of the State to the Union, it is nevertheless constrained to call the attention of Congress to the continuance of the disfranchisement and disability now imposed upon thousands of true and loyal citizens, while as many thousands of the devotees of treason and of continued schemes against the peace and integrity of the republic as are invested with the full powers and franchises of citizenship, which they are using, to frustrate the efforts of those who are laboring, thus trammelled, to perpetuate the Union, to place the national peace and safety on a sure foundation and render eternal the great and correct principles of Union, liberty and equality.

5th, That the President of the Convention, immediately after its adjournment, by and with the advice and consent of the Republican Executive Committee of the State, shall appoint a committee of loyal and well informed citizens, to consist of not less than one from each Congressional district, to urge upon Congress to remove, within just and safe limits, the disability complained of in the above resolution, in time, if possible to untrammel the efforts of true and loyal men in the approaching elections, or as soon as it can be judiciously done, and that authority is hereby given to said committee to speak for the Republican party in North Carolina as to the limits and conditions within which the removal of such disability can be safely and justly applied in this State.