

RESOLUTION.

Proposing Amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met: That the following amendments be proposed of the Constitution of the Commonwealth, in accordance with the provisions of the tenth article thereof.

FIRST AMENDMENT.

There shall be an additional article to said constitution to be designated as article eleven, as follows:

ARTICLE XI.

OF PUBLIC DEBTS.

Section 1. The state may contract debts, to support its public welfare or failures in revenue, or to meet expenses not otherwise provided for; but the aggregate amount of all such debts, and the principal sum of the same, and the money arising from the creation of such debts, shall be applied to the purpose for which they were created, or to pay such debts so contracted, and no other purpose whatever.

Section 2. In addition to the above limited power, the state may contract debts to repel invasion, suppress rebellion, or to defend itself against the invasions and rebellions of the people, or to defend the interests of the state, or the money arising from the contracting of such debts, shall be applied to the purpose for which it was raised, or to pay such debts, and to no other purpose whatever.

Section 3. Except the debts above specified, in sections one and two of this article, debt whatever shall be created by, or on behalf of the state,

Section 4. To provide for the payment of the present debt, and any additional debt contracted as aforesaid, the legislature shall, at first call, assess a sinking fund, which shall be sufficient to pay the accruing interest on such debt, and annually to reduce the principal thereof by a sum not less than two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, which sinking fund, together with the interest annually added thereto, shall be used to pay off time to time the debt by the state, or the proceeds of the sale of the same, or any part thereof, and of the income or proceeds of sale of stocks owned by the state, together with other funds, or resources, that may be available.

Section 5. Any sum so raised by the sinking fund may be increased, from time to time, by assessing to it any part of the taxes, or other revenues of the state, not required for the ordinary and current expenses of government, and unless so used, the same may be applied to the payment of the principal sum of such debt, until the amount of such debt is reduced below the sum of five millions of dollars.

Section 6. The credit of the Commonwealth shall not be given, in any manner, or event, to be pledged, or loaned to, any individual, company, corporation, or association; nor shall the Commonwealth hereafter become a joint owner, or stockholder, in any company, association, or corporation.

Section 7. The Commonwealth shall not assume the debt, or any part thereof, of any county, city, borough, or township; or of any corporation or association; unless such debt shall have been contracted to assist in the construction, improvement, supply, or maintenance, of any public works, or to assist the state in the discharge of any portion of its present indebtedness.

Section 8. The legislature shall be authorized to contract debts, or to incur obligations, directly, by virtue of a vote of its citizens, or otherwise, to become a stockholder in any company, association, or corporation; or to obtain money for, or loan its credit to, any corporation, association, institution, or party.

SECTION IX.

There shall be an additional article to said constitution, to be designated as article XII, as follows:

ARTICLE XII.

OF NEW COUNTIES.

No county shall be divided by a line cutting off over one-tenth of its population, (either to form a new county or otherwise,) without the express assent of such county, by a vote of the electors thereof, or of such county, as may be established, containing less than four hundred square miles.

SECTION X.

From section two of the first article of the constitution, strike out the words, "of the city of Philadelphia," and of each county respectively, "from section five upwards, strike out the words, "of Philadelphia and the districts contained within the boundaries of the city of Philadelphia nor any," and insert in lieu thereof the words, "and" and "strike out "section four, same article," and in lieu thereof insert the following:

"Section 1. In the year one thousand eight hundred and sixty-four, and in every seventh year thereafter, representative of one hundred thousand shall be apportioned and distributed equally, throughout the state, among the districts, according to the number of taxable inhabitants in each district, except of, except that any county containing at least three thousand five hundred taxable inhabitants, may be allowed a separate representation; but no more than three thousand five hundred no count, shall be entitled to a seat in the formation of a district." As any county containing a sufficient number of taxable inhabitants to entitle it to at least two representatives, shall have a separate representation assigned it, and shall be divided into convenient districts contiguous territory, of which district, not less than one representative.

"At the end of section seven, same article, insert these words, "the city of Philadelphia shall be divided into single and distinct districts, of contiguous territories, as nearly equal in population as possible, but no ward shall be divided in the formation thereof."

"The legislature at its first session, after the adoption of this amendment, shall divide the city of Philadelphia into single and distinct districts, of contiguous territories, as nearly equal in population as possible, but no ward shall be divided in the formation thereof.

SECTION XI.

There shall be an additional section to the first article of said constitution, which shall be numbered and read as follows:

Section 1. The legislature shall have the power to alter, revoke, or amend, any charter of incorporation, or general law, whenever in their opinion it may be injurious to the welfare of the commonwealth; in such manner, however, that no injustice shall be done to the corporators.

SECTION XII.

In Senate, March 27, 1857.

Resolved, that this resolution pass. On the first amendment, yeas 24, nays 1; on the second amendment, yeas 23, nays 2; on the third amendment, yeas 24, nays 4; on the fourth amendment, yeas 29, nays 4.

[Extract from the Journal]

GEO. W. HAMERSLY, Clerk.

In the House of Representatives, April 29, 1857.

Resolved, that this resolution pass. On the first amendment, yeas 78, nays 12; on the second amendment, yeas 57, nays 12; on the third amendment, yeas 72, nays 22; on the fourth amendment, yeas 83, nays 7.

[Extract from the Journal]

JACOB ZIEGLER, Clerk.

Filed in Secretary's office, May 2, 1857.

A. G. CURTIN,

Secretary of the Commonwealth.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE,

HARRISBURG, June 22, 1857.

There shall be an additional section to the first article of said constitution, which shall be numbered and read as follows:

Section 1. The legislature shall have the power to alter, revoke, or amend, any charter of incorporation, or general law, whenever in their opinion it may be injurious to the welfare of the commonwealth; in such manner, however, that no injustice shall be done to the corporators.

SECTION XIII.

In Senate, March 27, 1857.

The resolution proposing amendments to the constitution of the Commonwealth being under consideration.

On the question:

Will the Senate agree to the first amendment?

The yeas and nays were taken agreeably to the provisions of the Constitution, and were as follow:

Yea—Messrs. Brewer, Browne, Crabb, Gregg, Evans, Fetter, Flenniken, Frazer, Ingram, Jordan, Kilpatrick, Knobell, Ladd, Lawler, Myer, Scotford, Shuman, Souther, Steele, Straub, Welsh, Wilkins and Wright—24.

Nay—Messrs. Coffey, Gregg, Harris and Peacock—7.

So the question was determined in the affirmative.

On the question:

Will the Senate agree to the second amendment?

The yeas and nays were taken agreeably to the provisions of the Constitution, and were as follow:

Yea—Messrs. Brewer, Browne, Crabb, Gregg, Evans, Fetter, Flenniken, Frazer, Ingram, Jordan, Kilpatrick, Knobell, Ladd, Lawler, Myer, Scotford, Shuman, Souther, Steele, Straub, Welsh, Wilkins and Wright—23.

Nay—Messrs. Coffey, Gregg, Harris and Peacock—8.

So the question was determined in the affirmative.

On the question:

Will the Senate agree to the third amendment?

The yeas and nays were taken agreeably to the provisions of the Constitution, and were as follow:

Yea—Messrs. Brewer, Browne, Crabb, Gregg, Evans, Fetter, Flenniken, Frazer, Ingram, Jordan, Kilpatrick, Knobell, Ladd, Lawler, Myer, Scotford, Shuman, Souther, Steele, Straub, Welsh, Wilkins and Wright—24.

Nay—Messrs. Coffey, Gregg, Harris and Peacock—7.

So the question was determined in the affirmative.

On the question:

Will the Senate agree to the fourth amendment?

The yeas and nays were taken agreeably to the provisions of the Constitution, and were as follow:

Yea—Messrs. Brewer, Browne, Crabb, Gregg, Evans, Fetter, Flenniken, Frazer, Ingram, Jordan, Kilpatrick, Knobell, Ladd, Lawler, Myer, Scotford, Shuman, Souther, Steele, Straub, Welsh, Wilkins and Wright—24.

Nay—Messrs. Coffey, Gregg, Harris and Peacock—7.

So the question was determined in the affirmative.

On the question:

Will the Senate agree to the fifth amendment?

The yeas and nays were taken agreeably to the provisions of the Constitution, and were as follow:

Yea—Messrs. Brewer, Browne, Crabb, Gregg, Evans, Fetter, Flenniken, Frazer, Ingram, Jordan, Kilpatrick, Knobell, Ladd, Lawler, Myer, Scotford, Shuman, Souther, Steele, Straub, Welsh, Wilkins and Wright—24.

Nay—Messrs. Coffey, Gregg, Harris and Peacock—7.

So the question was determined in the affirmative.

On the question:

Will the Senate agree to the sixth amendment?

The yeas and nays were taken agreeably to the provisions of the Constitution, and were as follow:

Yea—Messrs. Brewer, Browne, Crabb, Gregg, Evans, Fetter, Flenniken, Frazer, Ingram, Jordan, Kilpatrick, Knobell, Ladd, Lawler, Myer, Scotford, Shuman, Souther, Steele, Straub, Welsh, Wilkins and Wright—24.

Nay—Messrs. Coffey, Gregg, Harris and Peacock—7.

So the question was determined in the affirmative.

On the question:

Will the Senate agree to the seventh amendment?

The yeas and nays were taken agreeably to the provisions of the Constitution, and were as follow:

Yea—Messrs. Brewer, Browne, Crabb, Gregg, Evans, Fetter, Flenniken, Frazer, Ingram, Jordan, Kilpatrick, Knobell, Ladd, Lawler, Myer, Scotford, Shuman, Souther, Steele, Straub, Welsh, Wilkins and Wright—24.

Nay—Messrs. Coffey, Gregg, Harris and Peacock—7.

So the question was determined in the affirmative.

On the question:

Will the Senate agree to the eighth amendment?

The yeas and nays were taken agreeably to the provisions of the Constitution, and were as follow:

Yea—Messrs. Brewer, Browne, Crabb, Gregg, Evans, Fetter, Flenniken, Frazer, Ingram, Jordan, Kilpatrick, Knobell, Ladd, Lawler, Myer, Scotford, Shuman, Souther, Steele, Straub, Welsh, Wilkins and Wright—24.

Nay—Messrs. Coffey, Gregg, Harris and Peacock—7.

So the question was determined in the affirmative.

On the question:

Will the Senate agree to the ninth amendment?

The yeas and nays were taken agreeably to the provisions of the Constitution, and were as follow:

Yea—Messrs. Brewer, Browne, Crabb, Gregg, Evans, Fetter, Flenniken, Frazer, Ingram, Jordan, Kilpatrick, Knobell, Ladd, Lawler, Myer, Scotford, Shuman, Souther, Steele, Straub, Welsh, Wilkins and Wright—24.

Nay—Messrs. Coffey, Gregg, Harris and Peacock—7.

So the question was determined in the affirmative.

On the question:

Will the Senate agree to the tenth amendment?

The yeas and nays were taken agreeably to the provisions of the Constitution, and were as follow:

Yea—Messrs. Brewer, Browne, Crabb, Gregg, Evans, Fetter, Flenniken, Frazer, Ingram, Jordan, Kilpatrick, Knobell, Ladd, Lawler, Myer, Scotford, Shuman, Souther, Steele, Straub, Welsh, Wilkins and Wright—24.

Nay—Messrs. Coffey, Gregg, Harris and Peacock—7.

So the question was determined in the affirmative.

On the question:

Will the Senate agree to the eleventh amendment?

The yeas and nays were taken agreeably to the provisions of the Constitution, and were as follow:

Yea—Messrs. Brewer, Browne, Crabb, Gregg, Evans, Fetter, Flenniken, Frazer, Ingram, Jordan, Kilpatrick, Knobell, Ladd, Lawler, Myer, Scotford, Shuman, Souther, Steele, Straub, Welsh, Wilkins and Wright—24.

Nay—Messrs. Coffey, Gregg, Harris and Peacock—7.

So the question was determined in the affirmative.

On the question:

Will the Senate agree to the twelfth amendment?

The yeas and nays were taken agreeably to the provisions of the Constitution, and were as follow:

Yea—Messrs. Brewer, Browne, Crabb, Gregg, Evans, Fetter, Flenniken, Frazer, Ingram, Jordan, Kilpatrick, Knobell, Ladd, Lawler, Myer, Scotford, Shuman, Souther, Steele, Straub, Welsh, Wilkins and Wright—24.

Nay—Messrs. Coffey, Gregg, Harris and Peacock—7.

So the question was determined in the affirmative.

On the question:

Will the Senate agree to the thirteenth amendment?

The yeas and nays were taken agreeably to the provisions of the Constitution, and were as follow:

Yea—Messrs. Brewer, Browne, Crabb, Gregg, Evans, Fetter, Flenniken, Frazer, Ingram, Jordan, Kilpatrick, Knobell, Ladd, Lawler, Myer, Scotford, Shuman, Souther, Steele, Straub, Welsh, Wilkins and Wright—24.

Nay—Messrs. Coffey, Gregg, Harris and Peacock—7.

So the question was determined in the affirmative.

On the question:

Will the Senate agree to the fourteenth amendment?

The yeas and nays were taken agreeably to the provisions of the Constitution, and were as follow:

Yea—Messrs. Brewer, Browne, Crabb, Gregg, Evans, Fetter, Flenniken, Frazer, Ingram, Jordan, Kilpatrick, Knobell, Ladd, Lawler, Myer, Scotford, Shuman, Souther, Steele, Straub, Welsh, Wilkins and Wright—24.

Nay—Messrs. Coffey, Gregg, Harris and Peacock—7.

So the question was determined in the affirmative.

On the question:

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