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 are proposed to the constitution of the Commonwealth in accordance with the provisions of the fourth article thereof:

FIRST AMENDMENT.

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

ARTICLE XVI.

OF PUBLIC DEBTS.

SECTION 1. The state may contract debts to supply casual deficits or failures in revenue, or to meet expenses not otherwise provided for; but the aggregate amount of such debts direct and contingent, whether contracted by virtue of one or more acts of the general assembly, or at different periods of time, shall never exceed seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars, and the money arising from the creation of such debts, shall be applied to the purpose for which it was obtained, or to repay the debts so contracted, and to no other purpose whatever.

SECTION 2. In addition to the above limited power the state may contract debts to repel invasion, suppress insurrection, defend the state in war, or to redeem the present outstanding indebtedness to the state, but the money arising from the contracting of such debts, shall be applied to the purpose for which it was raised, or to repay such debt, and to no other purpose whatever.

SECTION 3. Except the debts above specified, in sections one and two of this article, no debt whatever shall be contracted by, or on behalf of the state.

SECTION 4. To pay the interest of the present debt, and any additional debt contracted as aforesaid, the legislature of this state, at its first session after the adoption of this amendment, create a sinking fund, which shall be so related 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 shall consist of the net annual income of the public works, from time to time owned by the state, or the proceeds of the sale of the same, or any part thereof, and a tax, together with the funds or resources, that may be designated by law. The said sinking fund may be increased from time to time, by assigning to it any part of the ordinary revenue of the state, not require for the necessary expenses of government, and unless in time of war, invasion or insurrection, no part of the said sinking fund shall be used or applied otherwise than in ex ess payment of the public debt until the amount of such debt is reduced below the sum of five millions of dollars.

SECTION 5. The credit of the commonwealth shall not in any case be loaned or 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 6. 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 enable the state to repel invasion, suppress domestic insurrection, or defend itself in time of war, or to assist the state in the discharge of any portion of its present indebtedness.

FOURTH. The legislature shall not authorize any county, city, borough, township, or incorporated district, 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 person.

SECOND AMENDMENT.

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, nor shall any new county be established, containing less than two hundred square miles.

THIRD AMENDMENT.

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, the same article, strike out the words, "*of Philadelphia and of each county, respectively,*" from section seven, same article, strike out the words, "*of the city of Philadelphia and one city,*" and insert in lieu thereof the words, "and no," and in section four, same article, and in lieu thereof insert the following:

"Provided, In the year one thousand eight hundred and sixty four, and in every seventh year thereafter, representatives to the number of one hundred, shall be apportioned and distributed among the counties of this state, in proportion to the number of taxable inhabitants in the aforesaid period next preceding, and each county containing at least three thousand five hundred inhabitants shall be allowed a separate representation; but no more than three counties shall be joined, and no county shall be divided in the formation of a district. Any city chartered a sufficient number of taxables to entitle it to at least two representatives, shall have a separate representation accorded it, and shall be divided into convenient districts of contiguous territory, of equal taxable population as near as may be, each of which districts shall elect one representative."

At the end of section seven, of the article, insert these words, "*The city of Philadelphia shall be divided into districts, as aforesaid, of contiguous territory as early equal in taxable population as possible, and no ward of a district shall be divided in the formation of a district.*"

The legislature at its first session, after the adoption of this amendment, shall divide the city of Philadelphia into senatorial and representative districts, in the manner above provided, and districts to remain unchanged until the apportionment in the year one thousand eight hundred and sixty-five.

FOURTH AMENDMENT.

To be Section XXV. Article 1.

The legislature shall have the power to alter, revoke, or annul, any charter of incorporation heretofore conferred by or under any special or general law, whenever in their opinion it may be injurious to the citizens of the commonwealth to do such act, provided, however, that no injustice shall be done to the corporators.

IN SENATE, April 21, 1856.

Resolved, That this resolution pass. On the first amendment, yeas 24, nays 5. On the second amendment, yeas 26, nays 2. On the third amendment, yeas 28, nays 4. On the fourth amendment, yeas 26, nays 4.

Extract from the Journal.

THOMAS A. MAGUIRE, Clerk.

IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, April 30, 1856.

Resolved, That this resolution pass. On the first amendment, yeas 72, nays 24. On the second amendment, yeas 68, nays 25. On the third amendment, yeas 68, nays 25, and on the fourth amendment, yeas 69, nays 16.

Extract from Journal.

WILLIAM JACK, Clerk.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE, April 21, 1856. } A. G. CURTIN.
Filed April 24, 1856. } *Sec'y of the Commonwealth.*

SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
Harrisburg, June 27, 1856.

Pennsylvania, ss:

I do certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original "Resolution relative to an amendment of the Constitution," as the same remains on file in this office.

IN TESTIMONY whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the seal of the Secretary's Office, the day and year above written.

A. G. CURTIN,
Secretary of the Commonwealth.

IN SENATE, April 21, 1856.

Resolution proposing amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth, being under consideration,

On motion the question was taken, "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, viz:

YEAS—Messrs. Browne, Buckalew, Crawford, Evans, Fox, Fleeniken, Hoge, Ingram, Jamison, Jordan, Knox, Laubach, Lewis, Mullinger, Price, Seltzer, Shuman, Souther, Strimp, Taggart, Walton, Welsh, Wherry, Wilkins and Platt, *Speaker*—26.

NAYS—None.

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 Constitution, and were as follow, viz:

YEAS—Messrs. Browne, Buckalew, Crawford, Evans, Fox, Fleeniken, Hoge, Ingram, Jamison, Jordan, Knox, Laubach, Lewis, Mullinger, Price, Seltzer, Shuman, Souther, Strimp, Taggart, Walton, Welsh, Wherry, Wilkins and Platt, *Speaker*—26.

NAYS—None.

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 Constitution, and were as follow, viz:

YEAS—Messrs. Browne, Buckalew, Crabb, Crawford, Evans, Fox, Fleeniken, Hoge, Ingram, Jamison, Jordan, Knox, Laubach, Lewis, Mullinger, Price, Seltzer, Shuman, Souther, Strimp, Taggart, Walton, Welsh, Wherry, Wilkins and Platt, *Speaker*—28.

NAYS—None.

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 Constitution, and were as follow, viz:

YEAS—Messrs. Browne, Buckalew, Crabb, Crawford, Evans, Fox, Fleeniken, Hoge, Ingram, Jamison, Jordan, Knox, Laubach, Lewis, Mullinger, Price, Seltzer, Shuman, Souther, Strimp, Taggart, Walton, Welsh, Wherry, Wilkins and Platt, *Speaker*—28.

NAYS—None.

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 Constitution, and were as follow, viz:

YEAS—Messrs. Browne, Buckalew, Crabb, Crawford, Evans, Fox, Fleeniken, Hoge, Ingram, Jamison, Jordan, Knox, Laubach, Lewis, Mullinger, Price, Seltzer, Shuman, Souther, Strimp, Taggart, Walton, Welsh, Wherry, Wilkins and Platt, *Speaker*—28.

NAYS—None.

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, and were as follow, viz:

YEAS—Messrs. Anderson, Backus, Baldwin, Ball, Beck, Lycoming, Beck, (York,) Bernhard, Boyd, Brown, Bucher, Buchanan, Caldwell, Campbell, Curry, Craig, Crawford, Edinger, Fausold, Foster, Fry, Getz, Heisse, Hamal, Harper, Helfen, Hibbs, Hill, Hilleas, Hipple, Sylvania, Hoover, Imbrie, Ingham, Irvin, Irwin, Jenkins, Johnson, Lamotte, Lobb, Lonsaker, Lovett, M'Calmont, McCarthy, M'Comb, Magee, Mensor, Miller, Montgomery, Nonnemacher, Orr, Pearson, Pinther, Purrell, Ramsey, Reed, Reinhold, Riddle, Roberts, Shenk, Smith, (Allegheny,) Smith, (Somerset,) Smith, (Venango,) Stroner, Thomson, Vail, Whallon, Wright, (Dauphin,) Wright, (Luzerne,) Zimmerman and Wright, *Speaker*—61.

NAYS—Messrs. Augustine, Barry, Clover, Coburn, Dock, Dowdall, Fry, Fulton, Gaylord, Gibboney, Hamilton, Hancock, Hepburn, Hunter, Iseminger, Kline, Lamb, Lawrence, Leisenring, M'Carthy, Magee, Manley, Moorhead, Merrill, Patterson, Reinhold, Roberts, Salisbury, Walter, Wintrode, Yearsley and Wright, *Speaker*—34.

So the question was determined in the affirmative.

On the question,

Will the House agree to the fourth amendment?

The yeas and nays were taken, and were as follow, viz:

YEAS—Messrs. Anderson, Backus, Baldwin, Ball, Beck, (Lycoming,) Beck, (York,) Bernhard, Boyd, Boyer, Brown, Buchanan, Caldwell, Campbell, Curry, Craig, Crawford, Edinger, Fausold, Foster, Fry, Getz, Heisse, Hamal, Harper, Helfen, Hibbs, Hill, Hilleas, Hipple, Sylvania, Hoover, Imbrie, Ingham, Irvin, Irwin, Jenkins, Johnson, Lamotte, Lobb, Lonsaker, Lovett, M'Calmont, M'Carthy, M'Comb, Magee, Mensor, Miller, Montgomery, Nonnemacher, Orr, Pearson, Pinther, Purrell, Ramsey, Reed, Riddle, Roberts, Shenk, Smith, (Allegheny,) Smith, (Somerset,) Smith, (Venango,) Thompson, Whallon, Wright, (Dauphin,) Wright, (Luzerne,) and Zimmerman—64.

NAYS—Messrs. Barry, Clover, Coburn, Dock, Dowdall, Fry, Fulton, Gaylord, Gibboney, Hamilton, Hancock, Hepburn, Iseminger, M'Carthy, Magee, Manley, Moorhead, Merrill, Patterson, Reinhold, Roberts, Salisbury, Walter, Wintrode, Yearsley and Wright, *Speaker*—34.

So the question was determined in the affirmative.