CONSTITUTION.

New Constitution Proposed to the Citizens of this Commonwealth for their Approval or Rejection, by the Constitutional Convention.

Published by order of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, in pursuance of the 4th section of an act of the General Assembly, "entitled "An act to provide for calling a Convention to Amend the Constitution," approved the 11th day of April, A. D. 1872.

PREAMBLE.

We, the people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, grateful to Almighty God for the blessings of civil and religious liberty, and humbly invoking His guidance, do ordain and establish this Constitution.

ARTICLE I.

DECLARATION OF RIGHTS.

That the general, great and essential principles of liberty and free government may be recognized and unalterably established, we declare that—

SECTION 1. All men are born equally free and independent, and have certain inherent and indefeasible rights, among which are those of enjoying and defending life and liberty, of acquiring, possessing and protecting property and reputation, and of pursuing their own happiness.

SEC. 2. All power is inherent in the people, and all free governments are founded on their authority and instituted for their peace, safety and happiness. For the advancement of these ends they have at all times an inalienable and indefeasible right to alter, reform or abolish their government in such manner as they think proper.

SEC. 3. All men have a natural and indefeasible right to worship Almighty God according to the dictates of their own consciences; no man can of right be compelled to attend, erect or support any place of worship, or to maintain any ministry against his consent; no human authority can, in any case whatever, control or interfere with the rights of conscience, and no preference shall ever be given by law to any religious establishments or modes of worship.

SEC. 4. No person who acknowledges the being of a God and a future state of rewards and punishments shall, on account of his religious sentiments, be disqualified to hold any office or place of trust or profit under this Commonwealth.

SEC. 5. Elections shall be free and equal; and no power, civil or military, shall at any time interfere to prevent the free exercise of the right of suffrage.

SEC. 6. Trial by jury shall be as heretofore, and the right thereof remain inviolate.

SEC. 7. The printing press shall be free to every person who may undertake to examine the proceedings of the Legislature or any branch of government, and no law shall ever be made to restrain the right thereof. The free communication of thoughts and opinions is one of the invaluable rights of man, and every citizen may freely speak, write and print on any subject, being responsible for the abuse of that liberty. No conviction shall be had in any prosecution for the publication of papers relating to the official conduct of officers or men in public capacity, or to any other matter proper for public investigation or information where the fact that such publication was not maliciously or negligently made shall be established to the satisfaction of the jury; and in all indictments for libels the jury shall have the right to determine the law and the fact, under the direction of the court, as in other cases.

SEC. 8. The people shall be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and possessions, from unreasonable searches and seizures, and no warrant to search any place or to seize any person or things, shall issue without describing them as nearly as may be, nor without probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, subscribed to by the affiant.

SEC. 9. In all criminal prosecutions, the accused hath a right to be heard by himself and his counsel, to demand the nature and cause of the accusation against him, to meet the witnesses face to face, to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and in prosecutions by indictment or information, a speedy public trial by an impartial jury of the vicinage; he cannot be compelled to give evidence against himself, nor can he be deprived of his life, liberty, or property, unless by the judgment of his peers or the law of the land.

SEC. 10. No person shall for any indictable offense be proceeded against criminally, by information, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the militia, when in actual service, in time of war or public danger, or by leave of the court, for oppression or misdemeanor in office.—No person shall for the same offense be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall private property be taken or applied to public use without authority of law, and without just compensation being first made or secured.

SEC. 11. All courts shall be open; and every man for an injury done him in his lands, goods, person, or reputation, shall have remedy by due course of law, and right and justice administered without sale, denial, or delay. Suits may be brought against the Commonwealth in such manner, in such courts, and in such cases as the Legislature may by law direct.

SEC. 12. No power of suspending laws shall be exercised unless by the Legislature or by its authority.

SEC. 13. Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel punishments inflicted.

SEC. 14. All prisoners shall be bailable by sufficient sureties, unless for capital offenses, when the proof is evident or presumption great; and the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in case of rebellion or invasion the public safety may require it.

SEC. 15. No conviction shall be held to be a forfeiture of any real estate.

SEC. 16. The person of a debtor, where there is not strong presumption of fraud, shall not be continued in prison after delivering up his estate for the benefit of his creditors, in such manner as shall be prescribed by law.

SEC. 17. No EX POST FACTO law, nor any law impairing the obligation of contracts, or making irrevocable any grant of special privileges or immunities, shall be passed.

SEC. 18. No person shall be attainted of treason or felony by the Legislature.

SEC. 19. No attainder shall work corruption of blood, nor, except during the life of the offender, forfeiture of estate to the Commonwealth; the estate of such persons as shall destroy their own lives shall descend or vest as in cases of natural death and if any person shall be killed by casualty, there shall be no forfeiture by reason thereof.

SEC. 20. The citizens have a right in a peaceable manner to assemble together for their common good, and to apply to those invested with the powers of government for redress or grievances or other proper purposes, by petition, address or remonstrance.

SEC. 21. The right of citizens to bear arms in defense of themselves and the State shall not be questioned.

SEC. 22. No standing army shall, in time of peace, be kept up without the consent of the Legislature and the military shall, in all cases, and at all times, be in strict subordination to the civil power.

SEC. 23. No soldier shall in time of peace be quartered in any house without the consent of the owner, nor in time of war but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

SEC. 24. The Legislature shall not grant any title of nobility or hereditary distinction, nor create any office the appointment of which shall be for a longer term than during good behavior.

SEC. 25. Emigration from the State shall not be prohibited.

SEC. 26. To guard against transgressions of the high powers which we have delegated, we declare that everything in this article is excepted out of the general powers of government, and shall forever remain inviolate.

ARTICLE II.

THE LEGISLATURE.

SECTION 1. The legislative power of this Commonwealth shall be vested in a General Assembly, which shall consist of a Senate and a House of Representatives.

SEC. 2. Members of the General Assembly shall be chosen at the general election every second year. Their term of service shall begin on the first day of December next after their election. Whenever a vacancy shall occur in either House, the presiding officer thereof shall issue a writ of election to fill such vacancy for the remainder of the term.

SEC. 3. Senators shall be elected for the term of four years and Representatives for the term of two years.

SEC. 4. The General Assembly shall meet at twelve o'clock noon, on the first Tuesday of January every second year, and at other times when convened by the Governor, but shall hold no adjourned annual session after the year one thousand eight hundred and seventy-eight. In case of a vacancy in the office of United States Senator from this Commonwealth, in a recess between sessions, the Governor shall convene the two houses by proclamation on notice not exceeding sixty days to fill the same.

SEC. 5. Senators shall be at least twenty-five years of age, and Representatives twenty-one years of age. They shall have been citizens and inhabitants of the State four years, and inhabitants of their respective districts one year next before their election (unless absent on the public business of the United States or of this State), and shall reside in their respective districts, or be citizens of the State.

SEC. 6. No Senator or Representative shall, during the time for which he shall have been elected, be appointed to any civil office under this Commonwealth, and no member of Congress or other person holding any office (except of attorney-at-law or in the militia) under the United States or this Commonwealth shall be a member of either house during his continuance in office.

SEC. 7. No person hereafter convicted of embezzlement of public moneys, bribery, perjury or other infamous crime, shall be eligible to the General Assembly, or capable of holding any office of trust or profit in this Commonwealth.

SEC. 8. The members of the General Assembly shall receive such salary and mileage for regular and special sessions as shall be fixed by law, and no other compensation whatever, whether for service upon committee or otherwise. No member of either house shall, during the term for which he may have been elected, receive any increase of salary, or mileage, under any law passed during such term.

SEC. 9. The Senate shall, at the beginning and close of each regular session, and at such other times as may be necessary, elect one of its members president pro tempore, who shall perform the duties of the Lieutenant Governor, in any case of absence or disability of that officer; and whenever the said office of Lieutenant Governor shall be vacant, the House of Representatives shall elect one of its members as Speaker. Each house shall choose its other officers, and shall judge of the election and qualifications of its members.

SEC. 10. A majority of each House shall constitute a quorum, but a smaller number may adjourn from day to day, and compel the attendance of absent members.

SEC. 11. Each house shall have power to determine the rules of its proceedings and punish its members or other persons for contempt or disorderly behavior in its presence, to enforce obedience to its process, to protect its members against violence, or offers of bribes or private solicitation, and with the concurrence of two-thirds, to expel a member, but not a second time for the same cause, and shall have all other powers necessary for the legislature of a free State. A member expelled for corruption shall not thereafter be eligible to either house, and punishment for contempt or disorderly behavior shall not bar an indictment for the same offense.

SEC. 12. Each house shall keep a journal of its proceedings and from time to time publish the same, excepting such parts as require secrecy, and the yeas and nays of the members on any question shall, at the desire of any two of them, be entered on the journal.

SEC. 13. The sessions of each house and of committees of the whole shall be open, unless when the business is such as ought to be kept secret.

SEC. 14. Neither house shall, without the consent of the other, adjourn for more than three days, nor to any other place than that in which the two houses shall be sitting.

SEC. 15. The members of the General Assembly shall in all cases, except treason, felony, violation of their oath of office, and breach or surety of the peace, be privileged from arrest during their attendance at the sessions of their respective houses, and in going to and returning from the same; and for any speech or debate in either house, they shall not be questioned in any other place.

SEC. 16. The State shall be divided into fifty Senatorial districts of compact and contiguous territory, as nearly equal in population as may be, and each district shall be entitled to elect one Senator. Each county containing one or more ratios of population shall be entitled to one Senator for each ratio, and to an additional Senator for a surplus of population exceeding three-fifths of a ratio; but no county shall form a separate district unless it shall contain four-fifths of a ratio, except where the adjoining counties are each entitled to one or more Senators, when such county may be assigned a Senator after one-half of a ratio, and exceeding one-half of a ratio, and no county shall be divided unless entitled to two or more Senators. No city or county shall be entitled to separate representation exceeding one-sixth of the whole number of Senators. No ward, borough or township shall be divided in the formation of a district. The Senatorial ratio shall be ascertained by dividing the whole population of the State by the number fifty.

SEC. 17. The members of the House of Representatives shall be apportioned among the several counties, on a ratio obtained by dividing the population of the State as ascertained by the most recent United States census by two hundred. Every county containing less than five ratios shall have one representative for every full ratio, and an additional representative when the surplus exceeds half a ratio; but each county shall have at least one representative. Every county containing five ratios or more shall have one representative for every full ratio. Every city containing a population equal to a ratio shall elect separately its proportion of representatives allotted to the county in which it is located. Every city entitled to more than four representatives, and every county having over one hundred thousand inhabitants, shall be divided into districts of compact and contiguous territory, each district to elect its proportion of representatives according to its population, but no district shall elect more than four representatives.

SEC. 18. The General Assembly at its first session after the adoption of this constitution, and immediately after each United States decennial census, shall apportion the State into Senatorial and Representative districts agreeably to the provisions of the two next preceding sections.

ARTICLE III.

LEGISLATION.

SECTION 1. No law shall be passed except by bill, and no bill shall be so altered or amended on its passage through either house as to change its original purpose.

SEC. 2. No bill shall be considered unless referred to a committee, returned therefrom, and printed for the use of the members.

SEC. 3. No bill, except general appropriation bills, shall be passed, containing more than one subject, which shall be clearly expressed in its title.

SEC. 4. Every bill shall be read at length on three different days in each house; all amendments made thereto shall be printed for the use of the members before the final vote is taken on the bill, and no bill shall become a law unless on its final passage the vote be taken by yeas and nays, the names of the persons voting for and against the same be entered on the journal, and a majority of the members elected to each house be recorded thereon as voting in its favor.

SEC. 5. No amendment to bills by one house shall be concurred in by the other, except by a vote of a majority of the members elected thereto taken by yeas and nays, and the names of those voting for and against recorded upon the journal thereof; and reports of committees of conference shall be adopted in either house only by the vote of a majority of the members elected thereto, taken by yeas and nays, and the names of those voting recorded upon the journal.

SEC. 6. No law shall be revived, amended, or the provisions thereof extended or conferred by reference to its title only, but so much thereof as is revived, amended, extended, or conferred, shall be re-enacted and published at length.

SEC. 7. The General Assembly shall not pass any local or special law:

Authorizing the creation, extension or impairing of liens;

Regulating the affairs of counties, cities, townships, wards, boroughs, or school districts;

Changing the names or persons or places;

Changing the venue in civil or criminal cases;

Authorizing the laying out, opening, altering, or maintaining roads, highways, streets, or alleys;

Relating to ferries or bridges, or incorporating ferry or bridge companies, except for the erection of bridges crossing streams which form boundaries between this and any other State.

Vacating roads, town plats, streets or alleys;

Relating to cemeteries, graveyards or public grounds not of the State;

Authorizing the adoption or legitimation of children;

Locating or changing county seats, erecting new counties, or changing county lines;

Incorporating cities, towns, or villages, or changing their charters;

For the opening and conducting of elections, or fixing or changing the place of voting;

Granting divorces;

Erecting new townships or boroughs, changing township lines, borough limits, or school districts;

Creating offices, or prescribing the powers and duties of officers in counties, cities, boroughs, townships, election or school districts;

Changing the law of descent or succession;

Regulating the practice or jurisdiction of or changing the rules of evidence in any judicial proceeding or inquiry before courts, aldermen, justices of the peace, sheriffs, commissioners, arbitrators, auditors, masters in chancery, or other tribunals, or providing or changing methods for the collection of debts, or the enforcing of judgments or prescribing the effect of judicial sales of real estate;

Regulating the fees, or extending the powers and duties of aldermen, justices of the peace, magistrates, or constables;

Regulating the management of public schools, the building or repairing of school houses, and the raising of money for such purposes;

Fixing the rate of interest;

Affecting the estates of minors or persons under disability, except after due notice to all parties in interest, to be recited in the special enactment;

Remitting fines, penalties and forfeitures, or refunding moneys legally paid into the Treasury;

Exempting property from taxation;

Regulating labor, trade, mining, or manufacturing;

Creating corporations, or amending, renewing, or extending the charters thereof;

Granting to any corporation, association, or individual any special or exclusive privilege or immunity or to any corporation, association or individual the right to lay down a railroad track. Nor shall the General Assembly indirectly enact such special or local law by the partial repeal of a general law, but laws repealing local or special acts may be passed. Nor shall any law be passed granting powers or privileges in any case where the granting of such powers and privileges shall have been provided for by general law, nor where the courts have jurisdiction to grant the same or give the relief asked for.

SEC. 8. No local or special bill shall be passed unless notice of the intention to apply therefor shall have been published in the locality where the matter or the thing to be affected may be situated, which notice shall be at least thirty days prior to the introduction into the General Assembly of such bill, and in the manner to be provided by law; the evidence of such notice having been published, shall be exhibited in the General Assembly before such act shall be passed.

SEC. 9. The presiding officer of each house shall, in the presence of the house over which he presides, sign all bills and joint resolutions passed by the General Assembly, after their titles have been publicly read immediately before signing, and the fact of signing shall be entered on the journal.

SEC. 10. The General Assembly shall prescribe by law the number, duties and compensation of the officers and employees of each house, and no payment shall be made from the State Treasury, or be in any way authorized to any person, except to an acting officer or employee elected or appointed in pursuance of law.

SEC. 11. No bill shall be passed giving any extra compensation to any public officer, servant, employee, agent or contractor, after services shall have been rendered or contract made, nor providing for the payment of any claim against the Commonwealth, without previous authority of law.

SEC. 12. All stationary, printing, paper and fuel used in the legislative and other departments of government shall be furnished, and the printing, binding, and distributing of the laws, journals, departmental reports, and all other printing and binding, and the repairing and furnishing the halls and rooms used for the meetings of the General Assembly and its committees, shall be performed under contract, to be given to the lowest responsible bidder below such maximum price and under such regulations as shall be prescribed by law; no member of office or any department of the government shall be in any way interested in such contracts, and all such contracts shall be subject to the approval of the Governor, Auditor General and State Treasurer.

SEC. 13. No law shall extend the term of any public officer, or increase or diminish his salary or emoluments after his election or appointment.

SEC. 14. All bills for raising revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives, but the Senate may propose amendments as in other bills.

SEC. 15. The general appropriation bill shall embrace nothing but appropriations for the ordinary expenses of the executive, legislative and judicial departments of the Commonwealth, interest on the public debt, and for public schools; all other appropriations shall be made by separate bills each embracing but one subject.

SEC. 16. No money shall be paid out of the Treasury except upon appropriations made by law and on warrant drawn by the proper officer in pursuance thereof.

SEC. 17. No appropriation shall be made to any charitable or educational institution not under the absolute control of the Commonwealth, other than normal schools established by law for the professional training of teachers for the public schools of the State, except by a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house.

SEC. 18. No appropriations except for pensions or gratuities for military services shall be made for charitable, educational or benevolent purposes, to any person or community, nor to any denominational or sectarian institution, corporation or association.

SEC. 19. The General Assembly may make appropriations of money to institutions wherein the widows of soldiers are supported or assisted or the orphans of soldiers are maintained and educated; but such appropriation shall be applied exclusively to the support of such widows and orphans.

SEC. 20. The General Assembly shall not delegate to any special commission, private corporation or association, any power to make, supervise or interfere with any municipal improvement, money, property or effects, whether held in trust or otherwise, or to levy taxes or perform any municipal function whatever.

SEC. 21. No act of the General Assembly shall limit the amount to be recovered for injuries resulting in death, or for injuries to persons or property, and in case of death from such injuries, the right of action shall survive, and the General Assembly shall prescribe for whose benefit such actions shall be prosecuted. No act shall prescribe any limitations of time within which suits may be brought against corporations for injuries to persons or property, or for other causes different from those fixed by general laws regulating actions against natural persons, and such acts now existing are avoided.

SEC. 22. No act of the General Assembly shall authorize the investment of trust funds by executors, administrators guardians, or other trustees, in the bonds or stock of any private corporation, and such acts now existing are avoided, saving investments heretofore made.

SEC. 23. The power to change the venue in civil and criminal cases shall be vested in the courts, to be exercised in such manner as shall be provided by law.

SEC. 24. No obligation or liability of any railroad or other corporation, held or owned by the Commonwealth, shall ever be exchanged, transferred, remitted, postponed, or in any way diminished by the General Assembly, nor shall such liability or obligation be released, except by payment thereof into the State Treasury.

SEC. 25. When the General Assembly shall be convened in special session, there shall be no legislation upon subjects other than those designated in the proclamation of the Governor, calling such session.

SEC. 26. Every order, resolution, or vote, to which the concurrence of both houses may be necessary (except on the question of adjournment) shall be presented to the Governor, and before it shall take effect be approved by him, or being disapproved shall be repassed by two-thirds of both houses, according to the rules and limitations prescribed in case of a bill.

SEC. 27. No State office shall be continued or created for the inspection or measuring of any merchandise, manufacture or commodity, but any county or municipality may appoint such officers when authorized by law.

SEC. 28. No law changing the location of the capital of the State shall be valid until the same shall have been submitted to the qualified electors of the Commonwealth, at a general election, and ratified and approved by them.

SEC. 29. A member of the General Assembly who shall solicit, demand, or receive, or consent to receive, directly or indirectly, for himself or for another, from any company, corporation, or person, any money, office, appointment, employment, testimonial, reward, thing of value or emolument, or of personal advantage or promise thereof, for his vote or official influence, or for withholding the same, or with an understanding, expressed or implied, that his vote or official action shall be in any way influenced thereby, or who shall solicit or demand any such money or other advantage, matter, or thing aforesaid for another, as the consideration of his vote or official influence, or of withholding the same, or shall give or withhold his vote or influence in consideration of the payment or promise of such money, advantage, matter, or thing to another, shall be held guilty of bribery within the meaning of this Constitution, and shall incur the disabilities provided thereby for said offense, and such additional punishment as is or shall be provided by law.

SEC. 30. Any person who shall, directly or indirectly, offer, give, or promise any money, or thing of value, testimonial, privilege, or personal advantage, to any executive or judicial officer or member of the General Assembly, to influence him in the performance of any of his public or official duties, shall be guilty of bribery, and be punished in such manner as shall be provided by law.

SEC. 31. The offense of corrupt solicitation of members of the General Assembly or of public officers of the State, or of any municipal division thereof, and any participation or practice of solicitation of such members or officers, to influence their official action, shall be defined by law, and shall be punished by fine and imprisonment.

SEC. 32. Any person may be compelled to testify in any lawful investigation or judicial proceeding, against any person who may be charged with having committed the offense of bribery or corrupt solicitation, or practices of solicitation, and shall not be permitted to withhold his testimony upon the ground that it may criminate himself or subject him to public infamy; but such testimony shall not afterwards be used against him in any judicial proceeding, except for perjury in giving such testimony, and any person convicted of either of the offenses aforesaid, shall, as part of the punishment therefor, be disqualified from holding any office or position of honor, trust, or profit in this Commonwealth.

SEC. 33. A member who has a personal or private interest in any measure or bill proposed or pending before the General Assembly shall disclose the fact to the house of which he is a member and shall not vote thereon.

ARTICLE IV.

THE EXECUTIVE.

SECTION 1. The Executive Department of this Commonwealth shall consist of a Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of the Commonwealth, Attorney General, Auditor General, State Treasurer, Secretary of Internal Affairs, and a Superintendent of Public Instruction.

SEC. 2. The supreme executive power shall be vested in the Governor, who shall take care that the laws be faithfully executed; he shall be chosen on the day of the general election by the qualified electors of the Commonwealth, at the places where they shall vote for Representatives. The returns of every election for Governor shall be sealed up and transmitted to the seat of government directed to the President of the Senate, who shall open and publish them in the presence of the members of both houses of the General Assembly. The person having the highest number of votes shall be Governor, but if two or more be equal and highest in votes, one of them shall be chosen Governor by the joint vote of the members of both houses. Contested elections shall be determined by a committee, to be selected from both houses of the General Assembly, and formed and regulated in such manner as shall be directed by law.

SEC. 3. The Governor shall hold his office during four years from the third Tuesday of January next ensuing his election, and shall not be eligible to the office for the next succeeding term.

SEC. 4. A Lieutenant Governor shall be chosen at the same time, in the same manner, for the same term, and subject to the same provisions as the Governor; he shall be president of the Senate, but shall have no vote unless they be equally divided.

SEC. 5. No person shall be eligible to the office of Governor or Lieutenant Governor except a citizen of the United States, who shall have attained the age of thirty years, and have been seven years next preceding his election an inhabitant of the State, unless he shall have been absent on the public business of the United States or of this State.

SEC. 6. No member of Congress or person holding any office under the United States or this State shall exercise the office of Governor or Lieutenant Governor.

SEC. 7. The Governor shall be commander-in-chief of the army and navy of the Commonwealth, and of the militia, except when they shall be called into the actual service of the United States.

SEC. 8. He shall nominate, and by and with the advice and consent of two-thirds of all the members of the Senate, appoint a Secretary of the Commonwealth and an Attorney General during pleasure, a Superintendent of Public Instruction for four years, and such other officers of the Commonwealth as he is or may be authorized by the constitution or by law to appoint; he shall have power to fill all vacancies that may happen in offices to which he may appoint during the recess of the Senate by granting commissions which shall expire at the end of their next session; he shall have power to fill any vacancy that may happen during the recess of the Senate, in the office of Auditor General, State Treasurer, Secretary of Internal Affairs or Superintendent of Public Instruction, in a judicial office, or in any other elective office which he is or may be authorized to fill;

If the vacancy shall happen during the session of the Senate, the Governor shall nominate to the Senate, before their final adjournment, a proper person to fill such vacancy.

But in any such case of vacancy, in an elective office, a person shall be chosen to said office at the next general election, unless the vacancy shall happen within three calendar months immediately preceding such election, in which case the election for said office shall be held at the second succeeding general election;

In acting on Executive nominations, the Senate shall sit with open doors, and in confirming or rejecting the nominations of the Governor, the vote shall be taken by yeas and nays, and shall be entered on the journal.

SEC. 9. He shall have power to remit fines and forfeitures, to grant reprieves, commutations of sentence and pardons, except in cases of impeachment, but no pardon shall be granted, nor sentence commuted, except upon the recommendation in writing of the Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of the Commonwealth, Attorney General and Secretary of Internal Affairs, or any three of them, after full hearing, upon due public notice and in open session and such commutation, pardon, or reprieve, with the reasons therefor at length, shall be recorded and filed in the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth.

SEC. 10. He may require information in writing from the officers of the Executive Department, upon any subject relating to the duties of their respective offices.

SEC. 11. He shall, from time to time, give to the General Assembly information of the state of the Commonwealth, and recommend to their consideration such measures as he may judge expedient.

SEC. 12. He may, on extraordinary occasions, convene the General Assembly, and in case of disagreement between the two houses, with respect to the time of adjournment, adjourn them to such time as he shall think proper, not exceeding four months. He shall have power to convene the Senate in extraordinary session, by proclamation, for the transaction of executive business.

SEC. 13. In case of the death, conviction on impeachment, failure to qualify, resignation, or other disability of the Governor, the powers, duties, and emoluments of the office for the remainder of the term, or until the disability be removed, shall devolve upon the Lieutenant Governor.

SEC. 14. In case of a vacancy in the office of Lieutenant Governor, or when the Lieutenant Governor shall be impeached by the House of Representatives, or shall be unable to exercise the duties of his office, the powers, duties, and emoluments thereof for the remainder of the term, or until the disability be removed, shall devolve upon the President PRO TEMPORE of the Senate; and the President pro tempore of the Senate shall in like manner become Governor if a vacancy or disability shall occur in the office of Governor; his seat as Senator shall become vacant when he shall become Governor, and shall be filled by election as any other vacancy in the Senate.

SEC. 15. Every bill which shall have passed both houses shall be presented to the Governor; if he approve, he shall sign it; but if he shall not approve, he shall return it with his objections to the house in which it shall have originated, which house shall enter the objections at large upon their journal, and proceed to reconsider it. If, after such reconsideration, two-thirds of all the members elected to that house shall agree to pass the bill, it shall be sent with the objections to the other house, by which, likewise, it shall be reconsidered, and if approved by two-thirds of all the members elected to that house, it shall be a law; but in such cases the votes of both houses shall be determined by yeas and nays, and the names of the members voting for and against the bill shall be entered on the journals of each house respectively. If any bill shall not be returned by the Governor within ten days after it shall have been presented to him, the same shall be a law in like manner as if he had signed it, unless the General Assembly, by their adjournment, prevent its return, in which case it shall be a law, unless he shall file the same, with his objections, in the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, and give notice thereof by public proclamation within thirty days after such adjournment.

SEC. 16. The Governor shall have power to disapprove of any item or items of any bill making appropriations of money, embracing distinct items, and the part or parts of the bill approved shall be the law, and the item or items of appropriation disapproved shall be void, unless repassed according to the rules and limitations prescribed for the passage of other bills over the executive veto.

SEC. 17. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court shall preside upon the trial of any contested election of Governor or Lieutenant Governor, and shall decide questions regarding the admissibility of evidence, and shall, upon request of the committee, pronounce his opinion upon other questions of law involved in the trial. The Governor and Lieutenant Governor shall exercise the duties of their respective offices until their successors shall be duly qualified.

SEC. 18. The Secretary of the Commonwealth shall keep a record of all official acts and proceedings of the Governor, and when required lay the same, with all papers, minutes and vouchers relating thereto, before either branch of the General Assembly, and perform such other duties as may be enjoined upon him by law.

SEC. 19. The Secretary of Internal Affairs shall exercise all the powers and perform all the duties of the Surveyor General, subject to such changes as shall be made by law. His department shall embrace a bureau of industrial statistics, and he shall discharge such duties relating to corporations, to the charitable institutions, the agricultural, manufacturing, mining, mineral, timber, and other material or business interests of the State as may be prescribed by law. He shall annually, and at such other times as may be required by law, make report to the General Assembly.

SEC. 20. The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall exercise all the powers and perform all the duties of the Superintendent of Common Schools, subject to such changes as shall be made by law.

SEC. 21. The term of the Secretary of Internal Affairs shall be four years, of the Auditor General, three years, and of the State Treasurer two years. These officers shall be chosen by the qualified electors of the State at general elections.—No person elected to the office of Auditor General or State Treasurer shall be capable of holding the same office for two consecutive terms.

SEC. 22. The present Great Seal of Pennsylvania shall be the seal of the State.

All commissions shall be in the name and by authority of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and be sealed with the State seal and signed by the Governor.

ARTICLE V.

THE JUDICIARY.

SECTION 1. The judicial power of this Commonwealth shall be vested in the Supreme Court, in courts of common pleas, courts of over and terminer and general jail delivery, courts of quarter sessions of the peace, orphans' courts, magistrates' courts, and in such other courts as the General Assembly may from time to time establish.

SEC. 2. The Supreme Court shall consist of seven judges, who shall be elected by the qualified electors of the State at large. They shall hold their offices for the term of twenty-one years, if they so long behave themselves well, but shall not be again eligible. The judge whose commission shall first expire shall be chief justice, and those after each judge whose commission shall first expire shall in turn be chief justice.

SEC. 3. The jurisdiction of the Supreme Court shall extend over the State, and the judges thereof shall, by virtue of their offices, be justices of over and terminer and general jail delivery in the several counties; they shall have original jurisdiction in cases of injunction, and where a corporation is a party defendant, of habeas corpus, of MANDAMUS to courts of inferior jurisdiction, of quo warranto, and of mandamus to the Commonwealth whose jurisdiction extends over the State, but shall not exercise any other original jurisdiction; they shall have appellate jurisdiction by appeal, writ of error or certiorari in all cases, as is now or may hereafter be provided by law.

SEC. 4. Until otherwise directed by law, the courts of common pleas shall continue as at present established, except as herein changed; not more than four counties shall, at any time, be included in one judicial district organized for said courts.

SEC. 5. Whenever a county shall contain forty thousand inhabitants it shall constitute a separate judicial district, and when it shall contain, as in the law it and the General Assembly shall provide for additional judges, as the business of the said districts may require, Counties containing a population less than shall be sufficient for formed into separate districts shall be formed into convenient single districts, or if necessary, may be attached to contiguous districts as the General Assembly may provide. The office of associate judge, not learned in the law, is abolished in counties forming separate districts; but the several associate judges in office when this constitution shall be adopted shall serve for their unexpired terms.

SEC. 6. In the counties of Philadelphia and Allegheny, all the jurisdiction and powers now vested in the District Courts and Courts of Common Pleas, subject to such changes as may be made by this constitution or by law, shall be in Philadelphia vested in four and in Allegheny in two distinct and separate courts of equal and co-ordinate jurisdiction, composed of three judges each; the said courts in Philadelphia shall be designated respectively as the Court of Common Pleas number one, number two, number three, and number four, and in Allegheny as the Court of Common Pleas number one and number two, but the number of said courts may be by law increased from time to time, and shall be in like manner designated by successive numbers; the number of judges in any of said courts in any county where the establishment of an additional court shall be authorized by law, may be increased from time to time; and whenever such increase shall amount to three, then and thereafter such court shall form a distinct and separate court as aforesaid, which shall be numbered as aforesaid. In Philadelphia all suits shall be instituted in the said Courts of Common Pleas, and be distributed among the number of said court, and the several courts shall distribute and apportion the business among them in such manner as shall be provided by rules of court, and in each court to which any suit shall be thus assigned shall have exclusive jurisdiction thereof, subject to change of venue, as shall be provided by law. In Allegheny each court shall have exclusive jurisdiction of all proceedings in law and in equity commenced therein, subject to change of venue as may be provided by law.

SEC. 7. For Philadelphia there shall be one Prothonotary's office, and one Prothonotary for all said courts, to be appointed by the judges of said courts, and to hold office for three years, subject to removal by a majority of the judges of the said Prothonotary shall appoint such assistants as may be necessary and authorized by said courts, and he and his assistants shall receive fixed salaries, to be determined by law, to be paid by said county; all fees collected in said office, except such as may be by law due to the Commonwealth, shall be paid by the Prothonotary into the county treasury. Each court shall have its separate docket, except the judgment docket, which shall contain the judgments and liens of all the said courts, as now or may be provided by law.

SEC. 8. The said courts in the counties of Philadelphia and Allegheny respectively shall from time to time, to turn, detail one or more of their judges to hold the courts of over and terminer and the courts of Quarter Sessions of the Peace of said counties in such manner as may be directed by law.

SEC. 9. Judges of the Courts of Common Pleas learned in the law shall be judges of the courts of Over and Terminer, Quarter Sessions of the Peace, and General Jail Delivery, and of the Orphans' Court, and within their respective districts shall be justices of the peace as to criminal matters.

SEC. 10. The judges of the courts of Common Pleas, within their respective counties, shall have power to issue writs of CERTIORARI to justices of the peace and other inferior courts not of record, and to cause the proceedings in the same, to be brought before them and right and justice to be done.

SEC. 11. Except as otherwise provided in this constitution, justices of the peace or aldermen shall be elected by the qualified electors of boroughs and townships at the time of the election of constables, by the qualified electors thereof, in such manner as shall be directed by law, and shall be commissioned by the Governor for a term of five years. No township, ward, district or borough shall elect more than two justices of the peace without the consent of a majority of the qualified electors within such township, ward or borough; no person shall be elected to such office unless he shall have resided within the township, ward or borough, in which he may be elected, one year next preceding his election. In cities containing over fifty thousand inhabitants, not more than one alderman shall be elected in each ward or district.

SEC. 12. In Philadelphia there shall be established, for each thirty thousand inhabitants, one municipal court and one police court, with jurisdiction not exceeding one hundred dollars, such courts shall be held by magistrates whose term of office shall be five years, and they shall be elected by the people of the districts, magistrates at large; and in the election of the said magistrates no voter shall vote for more than two-thirds of the number of persons to be elected, when more than one are to be chosen; they shall be compensated only by fixed salaries, to be paid by said county; and shall exercise such jurisdiction in criminal matters as may be now provided, or as is now exercised by aldermen, subject to such changes, not involving an increase of civil jurisdiction or conferring political duties, as may be made by law. In Philadelphia the office of alderman is abolished.

SEC. 13. All fees, fines and penalties in said courts shall be paid into the county treasury.

SEC. 14. Judges may be removed by decree in this Commonwealth, on of judgment in suit for a penalty before a magistrate, or court not of record, for misbehavior in office, or inability, to be ascertained as may be prescribed by law, upon allowance of the appellate court or judge thereof, upon cause shown.

SEC. 15. All judges required to be learned in the law, except the judges of the Supreme Court, shall be elected by the qualified electors of the respective districts over which they are to preside, and shall hold their offices for the term of ten years, if they shall so long behave themselves well; but for any reasonable cause, which shall not be sufficient ground for impeachment, the Governor may remove any of them on the address of two-thirds of each house of the General Assembly.

SEC. 16. Whenever two judges of the Supreme Court are to be chosen for the same term of service, each voter shall vote for one only, and when three are to be chosen, he shall vote for no more than two; and candidates highest in vote shall be declared elected.

SEC. 17. Should any two or more judges of the Supreme Court, or any two or more judges of the Court of Common Pleas of any district, be elected at the same time, they shall, as soon after the election as convenient, cast lots for priority or seniority of office, and certify the result to the Governor, who shall issue their commissions in accordance therewith.

SEC. 18. The judges of the Supreme Court and the judges of the several courts of common pleas and all other judges required to be learned in the law, shall, at stated times, receive for their services an adequate compensation, which shall be fixed by law, and shall not be diminished by them, but they shall receive no other compensation, fees, or perquisites of office for their services from any source, nor hold any other office of profit under the United States, this State, or any other State.

SEC. 19. The judges of the Supreme Court, during their continuance in office, shall reside within this Commonwealth; the judges of the courts, during their continuance in office, shall reside within the district for which they shall be respectively elected.

SEC. 20. The several Courts of Common Pleas, besides the powers herein conferred, shall have and exercise within their respective districts, subject to such changes as may be made by law, such chancery powers as are now vested by law in the several Courts of Common Pleas of this Commonwealth, or as may hereafter be conferred upon them by law.

SEC. 21. No duties shall be imposed by law upon the Supreme Court or any of the judges thereof, except such as are judicial, nor shall any of the judges thereof exercise any power of appointment, except as herein provided. The Court of Nisi Prius shall be abolished, and no court of original jurisdiction to be presided over by any one or more of the judges of the Supreme Court shall be established.

SEC. 22. In every county wherein the population shall exceed one hundred and fifty thousand the General Assembly shall, and in any other county may, establish a separate Orphans' Court, to consist of one or more judges who shall be learned in the law, which court shall exercise all the jurisdiction and powers now vested in, or which may hereafter be conferred upon, the Orphans' Courts, and thereupon the jurisdiction of the judges of the Court of Common Pleas within such county, in Orphans' Court proceedings, shall cease and determine; in any county in which a separate Orphans' Court shall be established the Register of Wills shall be clerk of such Court, and subject to the directions of the Court according to his office; he may appoint assistant clerks, but only with the consent and approval of said court. All accounts filed with him as register or as clerk of the said separate Orphans' Court shall be audited by the Court without expense to parties, except where all parties in interest in a pending proceeding shall nominate an auditor whom the court may in its discretion, appoint.—In every county Orphans' Courts shall possess all the powers and jurisdiction of a Register's Court, and separate Registers' Courts are hereby abolished.

SEC. 23. The style of all process shall be "The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania." All prosecutions shall be carried on in the name and by the authority of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and conclude against the peace and dignity of the same.

SEC. 24. In all cases of felonious homicide, and in such other criminal cases as may be provided for by law, the accused, after conviction and sentence, may remove the indictment, record, and all proceedings to the Supreme Court for review.

SEC. 25. Any vacancy happening by death, resignation, or otherwise, in any court of record, shall be filled by appointment by the Governor, to continue till the first Monday of January next succeeding the first general election, which shall occur three or more months after the happening of such vacancy.

SEC. 26. All laws relating to courts shall be general and of uniform operation, and the organization, jurisdiction, and powers of all courts of the same class or grade, so far as regulated by law, and the force and effect of the process and judgments of such courts shall be uniform; and the General Assembly is hereby prohibited from creating other courts to exercise