

Pennsylvania

Telegraph.

"INDEPENDENT IN ALL THINGS—NEUTRAL IN NONE."

VOL. XIV. HARRISBURG, PA., WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, APRIL 10, 1861. NO. 82.

Pennsylvania Legislature.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Tuesday, April 9, 1861.

The House was called to order at 10 o'clock A. M., by the SPEAKER, and opened with prayer by Rev. Mr. DeWitt.

On motion of Mr. THOMAS, the reading of the Journal was dispensed with.

REPORT OF A COMMITTEE.

Mr. BARNESLEY, from the Committee on Accounts, submitted the following resolution, which was twice read and adopted.

Resolved, That the Speaker of the House be directed to draw his warrant in favor of Geo. W. Porter for the sum of \$845 91, in full for postage from the 1st to the 6th of April, 1861, inclusive.

Considered and agreed to.

BILL IN FLOOR.

Mr. PATTERSON, one to change the place of holding elections in Perry township, Snyder county.

APPOINTMENT BILL.

Mr. PATTERSON (from the Special Committee on the appointment of the State), reported an Act to divide the State into Congressional districts for the election of representatives in the Congress of the United States.

THE PRIVATE CALENDAR.

Agreeably to order, The House proceeded to consider bills on the Private Calendar, when the following were agreed to, and laid aside for second reading:

No. 644. "An Act to vacate and annul a certain contract."

Sen. 628. "An Act to authorize the guardian of Charles K. Harrison and Emily K. Harrison to sell certain parts of their real estate."

Sen. 48. "An Act to incorporate the American and India Commercial Company."

Sen. 699. "An Act to incorporate the Saint Joseph's female academy."

No. 738. "A supplement to the Act incorporating the Philadelphia and Waterford railroad company."

No. 864. "An Act to incorporate Cove Lodge, No. 868, of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows."

No. 867. A supplement to an Act, entitled "An Act authorizing the Governor to incorporate the Mauch Chunk Water Company, approved the 6th day of March, A. D. 1849."

No. 868. "An Act to enable the Court of Common Pleas of Juniata county to open a certain account."

No. 869. An Act relating to notices in certain causes pending in the courts of Tioga county.

Sen. 600. Supplement to an Act incorporating the borough of Montrose, in the county of Susquehanna.

No. 872. An Act authorizing the Commissioners of Cambria county to borrow money.

No. 876. Supplement to an Act of Assembly incorporating the borough of Easton, in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

No. 878. An Act to authorize the appointment of a Notary Public in.....

No. 879. An Act to repeal the Act relating to auctioneers in the city of Erie, approved the 30th day of April, 1856.

No. 880. An Act supplementary to an Act incorporating the town of Lawrenceville into a borough, approved the 18th day of February, A. D. 1854.

No. 881. A supplement to an Act approved April 18, A. D. 1857, entitled "An Act relating to fees of aldermen, justices of the peace and constables."

Sen. 617. An Act vacating part of Strawberry lane, in the reserve tract, opposite Pittsburg.

No. 884. Supplement to an Act to authorize the appointment of an auctioneer in Johnstown, Cambria county.

No. 887. An Act to establish the Union school district of Chester and Delaware counties.

Sen. 672. An Act legalizing the election of school directors in Genesee Independent school district, Potter county.

Sen. 632. A supplement to the road laws of Rush and Auburn townships, Susquehanna county.

No. 898. A further supplement to an Act incorporating the University of Kittanning, approved the 18th day of March, A. D. 1858.

No. 900. An Act for the relief of the Sylvania Horse Guards.

Sen. 484. An Act to incorporate the Phoenix Hotel company, of Wilkesbarre.

No. 904. An Act to incorporate the Tidoute and Irvine Dyeing & Finishing company.

Sen. 494. An Act to incorporate the Farmers' and Mechanics' Mutual Fire Insurance company of Nittany and Sugar valleys.

No. 928. An Act to enable the owners of real estate on Plunket's creek, to convert the same into a navigable stream.

No. 924. An Act to authorize the Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal church at Quakertown, Bucks county, to sell and convey certain real estate.

Sen. 886. An Act to annul the marriage contract of Stanley S. Hinman, of Bradford county, Pennsylvania, and Wealthy, his wife.

No. 940. A supplement to an Act relating to the lien of mechanics and others upon buildings, approved the 16th day of June, A. D. 1850, so far as relates to Chester county.

No. 941. An Act to provide for the erection of a house for the employment and support of the poor for the county of Bradford.

Sen. 664. An Act to confirm the title of Geo. C. Barber and those claiming under him to certain lands.

Mr. BUTLER, (Crawford), withdrew his objections to House bill, No. 945, entitled "An Act to authorize the Erie canal company to perfect a certain contract; and the said bill was laid aside for second reading.

No. 937. An Act to vest the title in fee simple of lot No. 60, in the town of Fannettsburg, county of Franklin, in the school directors of said district.

No. 958. An Act for the relief of the estate of H. L. Brown, deceased, of the city of Erie.

Sen. 481. An Act authorizing the executor of William Santee to sell certain real estate.

No. 950. An Act relative to the borough of Franklin.

No. 962. An Act relating to dog tax, in Upper Oxford, Chester county.

Sen. 636. An Act for the preservation of fish in Middle Fork of Ten Mile creek, in the county of Washington.

No. 964. An Act repealing an Act for the preservation of fish in Franklin county.

Mr. LEISENRING withdrew his objections to Senate bill 449, entitled "An Act to authorize Schuylkill County to erect a bridge over the river Philadelphia; and the said bill was laid aside for second reading.

Sen. 681. An Act to establish a public ferry near the mouth of Oil creek, in Venango county.

No. 978. A supplement to the Act to incorporate the Manheim, Petersburg and Lancaster plank road company, approved the 9th day of May, 1850.

No. 876. "An Act relative to a public road in Pine Grove township, Warren county."

Sen. 694. "An Act relative to plank roads in Crawford county."

No. 977. An Act to lay out a State road in Venango, Butler and Armstrong counties.

No. 978. An Act to incorporate the Suspension transit company.

BILLS OBJECED OFF THE CALENDAR.

The following bill were objected off this Private Calendar:

By Mr. WILSON, No. 448. An Act relating to the removal of trespass in the townships of Millford and Permainaugh, in the county of Indiana.

By Mr. LEISENRING, No. 508. An Act to provide for the more correct and faithful assessment of real estate within the city of Philadelphia.

By Mr. THOMAS, No. 883. Supplement to an Act to provide for the erection of a house for the employment and support of the poor of a certain county of Cambria, approved May 6, A. D. 1857.

By Mr. LAWRENCE, No. 868. An Act to regulate the grades and streets in the West ward, in the borough of Easton, Northampton county.

By Mr. BISEL, Sen. 614. An Act to extend the provisions of an Act of Assembly relating to the selling of the repairs of the public roads in certain townships in Schuylkill county, approved the 19th day of January, A. D. 1860, to Zerke township, Northampton county.

By Mr. MARSHALL, Sen. 469. Supplement to an Act to incorporate the Citizens' Passenger railway company of the city of Pittsburg, approved the 22d day of March, A. D. 1859.

By Mr. BRESSLER, No. 909. An Act to provide for the erection of a new county out of parts of the county of Centre.

By Mr. BUTLER, (Crawford), No. 945. An Act to authorize the Erie Canal company to perfect a certain contract.

By Mr. PUGH, No. 949. An Act for the relief of a tax collector of Luzerne county.

By Mr. MOORE, Sen. 600. An Act to authorize the Welch society, in the city of Philadelphia, to sell and convey a certain lot of ground in West Philadelphia, commonly known as the Welch burial ground.

By Mr. BRESSLER, Sen. 761. An Act repealing an Act giving a bounty on muskrat scalps in the county of York.

By Mr. ELLIOTT, No. 886. An Act to incorporate the Bank of.....

By Mr. BARNESLEY, Sen. 686. "An Act authorizing the examination of the claim of Jesse Herbert."

By Mr. ACKER, Sen. 682. An Act authorizing an examination of the claim of Burke and Gonder.

By Mr. LEISENRING, Sen. 449. "An Act to authorize the erection of a free bridge over the river Schuylkill, at South street, in the city of Philadelphia."

By Mr. CRAIG, No. 972. An Act declaring Crooked Creek a public highway.

ARMING THE STATE—MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR.

The Deputy Secretary of the Commonwealth being present, presented a message from the Governor, which was read.

Mr. BAIL moved that the message be referred to a select committee of five, to act in conjunction with a similar committee to be appointed by the Senate, with instructions to report by bill.

The motion was agreed to; and the SPEAKER appointed Messrs. Ball, Williams, Duffield, Abbott and Gordon said committee.

ORIGINAL RESOLUTION.

Mr. DUFFIELD submitted the following resolution; which was twice read and agreed to:

Resolved, That the session for this evening be dispensed with, and the use of the House be granted to the Republican members.

SENATE AMENDMENTS.

To House bill entitled "An Act to incorporate the Ninth United Presbyterian church of Philadelphia," were read and concurred in.

To House bill entitled "An Act to incorporate the Fowalton Coal and Iron Company," were read and concurred in.

To House bill entitled "An Act relative to the city of Philadelphia," were read and concurred in.

SENATE BILLS CONSIDERED.

The following bills, from the Senate, were called up by the members named and disposed of as stated:

Mr. BOYER, an Act to incorporate the Fairview Cemetery Association of Berks county. Passed finally.

By Mr. DOUGLASS, a further supplement to the Act authorizing the Governor to incorporate a company to make a look navigation on the Youghiogeny river.

CONGRESSIONAL APPOINTMENT OF THE STATE.

Mr. BLANCHARD submitted the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Clerk be directed to have printed the population of the several Congressional districts, as proposed by the bill No. 1089, reported by the Committee, together with the said proposed districts.

The resolution was twice read.

Mr. PATTERSON. I would like to have an explanation of this resolution from the gentleman who has offered it. Does he propose to incorporate the table of population with the bill? I have no objection to printing a statement of the population, but I do not wish to pass the bill with the statistics of population annexed.

Mr. BLANCHARD. I desire that the members of this House shall, when acting on the bill, have before them an exhibit of the population of each county and district, so that they may act intelligently.

Mr. HOFIUS. This resolution appears to be a measure having for its object to delay the passage of the bill. If that is the object, I must certainly oppose it. I presume that if this resolution should be passed, and if the bill should come before the House this evening, the plan would be made that as this information should be printed the House could not act upon the bill. If the object of the resolution is to delay the consideration and passage of the bill, I am certainly opposed to it.

Mr. BLANCHARD. It is not the object of the friends of this resolution to retard in the least degree the action upon the bill.

But I presume that every gentleman in this House desires to act intelligently—not to act in the dark. In order to do so, it is very important that we should have before us an exhibit of the counties comprising each district, and the respective populations. The object of the resolution is not to retard action upon the bill, nor will such be the effect of its adoption.

Mr. PATTERSON moved to amend the resolution by adding the following:

"Provided, That said printing shall not be incorporated with the bill."

Mr. BLANCHARD accepted the amendment as a modification of his resolution.

Mr. WILSON. It appears to me that the adoption of this resolution is wholly unnecessary. We all have maps with the population upon them. I move that the whole matter be postponed for the present.

Mr. SELTZER. I hope that the amendment of my colleague (Mr. WILSON) will not prevail. That we have maps with the population of each county, is very true, but does not every gentleman want the printing of this information? According to this bill all the districts are marked out, and the aggregate population computed. This resolution proposes to have each district arranged with the population. By this arrangement, reference will be greatly facilitated, when otherwise much time would be consumed in referring to our maps.

Mr. PATTERSON. I have no desire to interfere with the printing of this information. I want gentlemen to have all the light that they desire. My only objection to the printing of this information is that it will not be brought up for consideration, according to the order of the House, the persons who are opposed to it will set up the argument that they cannot act upon it, because they have not yet the necessary information. This information could not be printed to ready this evening, and by such arguments the endeavor will be made to throw off the bill till to-morrow evening, or perhaps later. I say that every gentleman who is anxious to have action on this subject at this session should join with the friends of the bill in getting it through as soon as possible.

Mr. HOFIUS. I think this House should vote understandingly on this question. It is an evident attempt on the part of the enemies of the bill to defeat it. The parties who have offered this resolution, it will be seen, are not particularly satisfied with the districts proposed by the Committee. Now, it is proposed to go to the expense of printing a table with the population of the different districts as arranged by the Committee, whereas every member of this House has been furnished once or twice with the population of every county in this Commonwealth—once by means of a map, and again by means of a circular. I appeal to the members of this House who are in favor of the bill to vote down any proposition which will tend to retard action upon it. The only object of this resolution is to form a *modus vivendi* for the purpose of delaying the bill until the next session. I have been told upon this floor that that bill itself should be defeated if certain things are not done. I ask the majority of this House if they will permit such a defeat, after they have had a fair committee of both Houses, who have labored for weeks to perfect a bill which is acknowledged upon all hands to have been framed with less gerrymandering for the sake of party throughout the State than has been exhibited in any other apportionment bill reported to this House within the last twenty years. No counties have been divided unnecessarily, I believe, except in one instance, where it could have been avoided.

Now, it is proposed at this late hour of the session, when we are almost on the eve of an adjournment, here from our own side of the House, it is proposed to defeat the bill by this side issue, under the pretext of printing, when every member has before him the necessary data to which he can refer when the bill comes before the House, and when at the proper time he can offer his objections to any objectionable part of the bill. I appeal to the majority to sustain no proposition of the kind, but to come to a vote on the question.

Mr. HILL. I do not see the force of the argument of the gentleman from Schuylkill. It is well understood by the members of the House. I presume there is not one man in twenty in this House who knows with precision what this bill embraces. I have been a member of the Committee, and I am sure I do not know. The resolution offered by the gentleman from Lawrence (Mr. BLANCHARD) proposes to lay before us such information as we desire and need.

I hope there will be no disposition in this House to rush this measure through without the proper consideration of it, and the opportunity of amending it where amendments may be proper. Surely no gentleman who desires fair play in regard to this bill can object to having this necessary information printed and laid before us, so that we may be able to see what gerrymandering has taken place, and that we may be able to propose suitable amendments. I am glad that the gentleman from Schuylkill acknowledges that there is gerrymandering in this bill. He has not been divided, and I trust his House, when the bill shall come before us, will see that this has been done.

Mr. PATTERSON. I would just say that every gentleman in this House is furnished with a map which has the population of the counties and townships upon it. In addition to that, the committee have prepared a report embracing all the districts as agreed upon, with the population set opposite to each. Now, if the gentleman who has offered this resolution will have an opportunity of obtaining the information he asks; any district with its population can be read in a moment from the Clerk's desk. By this course, we shall avoid expense and delay. Delay, Mr. Speaker, is the object of this motion, and every friend of the apportionment bill in this House should try to prevent such delay. Here is the information which you gentlemen have been referring to this statement of the committee, just as easily as by having the matter printed, which will occupy probably three or four days.

Mr. BLANCHARD. I can readily conceive why gentleman squirm so soon as there is an effort made to lay before the House the facts and figures connected with this apportionment bill. When we have some districts with a population of 150,000, and others with a population of 400,000, I say I can readily conceive why it is that gentlemen desire that such information should not be laid before the House, and made public.

Mr. PATTERSON. I rise to explain. The gentleman is not representing me properly. I say that I wish the House to have this information, and here it is. Gentlemen can have it read at the Clerk's desk whenever it may be desired.

Mr. BLANCHARD. I prefer to have it printed before this time, and six o'clock this evening, if it be sent to the printer at once, and it can be laid upon our desks; so that we may have an opportunity of seeing how the different districts are arranged. I understand that the apportionment, as made by the Committee, has left my district, some three or four thousand against me; so that I have no such aspirations as are directed to by the gentleman from Jefferson (Mr. Gordon). But as this information can be printed and in readiness by the evening session, I do not see why there should be objection to giving members the benefit of this information.

Mr. WILSON withdrew his motion to postpone for the present.

Mr. LEISENRING moved to amend by inserting before the words "Congressional districts," the words "several counties in the State, as to read 'several counties of the several counties in the Congressional districts.'"

Mr. HILL. I do not think that the amendment of the gentleman from Philadelphia will answer the design we have in view. I desire to have this information in such a shape that when the bill shall come up, we may know exactly the population in each of those districts, as apportioned by the Committee, on our maps; but they are in a shape inconvenient for reference. By adopting the resolution as originally offered by the gentleman from Lawrence, we shall have before us just what we desire, so that we may act intelligently upon this bill, and upon any amendments which may be offered.

Mr. HOFIUS. I do not know but that it is proper to state that I think the object of this resolution is to retard the progress and passage of this bill. In connection with the subject, I wish to state that I was not, and am not now satisfied with this apportionment bill. But I was told upon this floor that it was expected that by a union of the dissatisfied Republicans with the Democratic portion of this House, the passage of this bill could be prevented. I considered that, in view of that emergency, I should support the bill as it is. Although I am not satisfied with the bill, yet, rather than clasp hands with the Democrats of this House for the purpose of defeating the apportionment bill at this session, I, for one, have agreed to support the bill as it is. I am not willing to throw away the interests of the party for the purpose of self-aggrandizement; or merely because I cannot promote my own selfish interests. Although I am somewhat dissatisfied, I am willing to withdraw my objections in order that the interests of the party may be advanced. I think it is a great misfortune that the possibility of such an understanding should be suggested.

Mr. LEISENRING. I withdraw my amendment.

Mr. DUFFIELD. In reference to the remarks of the gentleman from Mercer, (Mr. HOFIUS), I merely wish to say to the House that I should be sorry to see any Democrat take any part in this measure. I would like to see the Republicans fight their own battles. I am satisfied that, either way, the Democracy will benefit by the result.

Mr. SELTZER. My reason for desiring this printing is for the sake of convenience. I do not know whether or not the bill needs my favor. I do not know what are its provisions. Nor have I any views of personal aggrandizement in regard to the arrangement of congressional districts. But some of my constituents have written to me desiring to have this information for present and future reference. It can be printed in a short time.

I will guarantee that I will go as far as the gentleman from Mercer (Mr. HOFIUS) in favor of the Republican cause. In addition to that, I would say that sometimes we dig graves for others and fall into them ourselves. I believe it to be a fact that the opposition to the Democratic party never had the making of the apportionment in the State of Pennsylvania. Yet, in spite of our opponents having the apportionment, we have gained the day. So that, with regard to political effects, the measure is not of any grave consequence. But for the mere sake of convenience, I desire to have this information printed.

Mr. DAVIS. I think that this debate is, to say the least, unnecessary. We have not yet seen the Apportionment bill, as proposed by the Committee. Our information is only derived from hearsay, or has been obtained unofficially by going to the Committee and examining it. Now, I think that before any attempt to divide the merits of this bill, we should have it printed and placed before us for examination. If it be so obviously wrong as it is maintained to be by those who are opposed to it, for one I shall join with them in opposing it. So far as I am concerned, from what I have heard, the bill suits me exactly, and I shall vote for it. I cannot sanction the system of arranging a Committee for gerrymandering the State, and for violating their official obligations until we have heard from the Committee and have examined their report.

I think that the resolution of the gentleman from Lawrence is entirely unnecessary. Every member knows, or he ought to know, exactly the number of inhabitants in every county. When we shall have the bill before us, each member will see what counties are included in each district, and he will know—it is his privilege to know, it is his duty to know—the number of inhabitants in those counties. If the State has been gerrymandered in the manner in which some members assert that it has, the bill will be seen to be wrong and will fail, or will be amended into a proper shape.

I think it unnecessary to adopt any such resolution as that now before us.

Mr. PATTERSON. In the shape in which the resolution now stands, I have no objection to its adoption. But I desire to say this: When this bill shall come up for consideration to-morrow evening, (as it appears we are not to have a session to-night, if this printing should not be furnished, as I do not think it will be, I hope the friends of this resolution will not come into this House and plead, as an argument, to prevent action on the bill, that the information is not printed and upon their desks.

Mr. BLANCHARD. I said at the outset, that I had no disposition whatever to impede the progress of this bill; and I now pledge the gentleman that if these facts and figures should be before us to-morrow evening, I will make no objection to proceeding with the consideration of the bill.

Mr. PATTERSON. I was about to remark, that I think I may safely say, that almost every gentleman on this floor knows the contents of the bill. My friend from Lawrence, (Mr. BLANCHARD),

gentleman is not representing me properly. I say that I wish the House to have this information, and here it is.

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