

RAFTSMAN'S JOURNAL.



CLEARFIELD, PA., JAN. 13, 1864.

"Then and Now." The editors of the Copperhead organ, in their last issue quote several sentences, which purport to be taken from the *Journal* of 1860, and then say: "Our neighbor has never yet attempted any explanation of this remarkable change of front, although we have given him repeated opportunities to do so." For the information of our Copperhead neighbors, we will just say that, in the year 1860, we were neither editor, publisher, nor proprietor of the *Journal*, and hence we need make no explanation in regard to the matter referred to. We are only responsible for that which has transpired during our "administration."

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE.

This body met on Tuesday, January 5th, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.

THE HOUSE was called to order by Jacob Zeigler, Esq., the Clerk of the last House, whereupon Hon. Eli Slifer, the Secretary of the Commonwealth, presented the returns of the last election for members, which was read. On motion of Mr. Bigham the House proceeded to an election of Speaker which resulted in the choice of Henry C. Johnson, of Crawford, on the first ballot, by a vote of yeas 52, to nays 45. The oath of office was then administered to the newly elected Speaker by Mr. Pershing, after which the members were severally sworn and affirmed.

THE SENATE was called to order by Speaker Penny, who announced a quorum present—the only absentee being Senator White of Indiana. After the roll was called by the Clerk, upon the invitation of the Speaker the Senators elect presented themselves before the stand for the purpose of taking the oath of office; Messrs. Hopkins, Latta, Montgomery and Beardslee, having first asked leave to enter upon record "that they take the oath under protest, which leave was granted. On motion of Mr. Lamberton, the Senate proceeded to ballot for Speaker, which resulted as follows:

Messrs. Champneys, Clymer, Connell, Dunlap, Fleming, Graham, Hoge, Householder, Johnson, Lowry, McCandless, Nichols, Ridgeway, Turrell, Wilson and Worthington—16, voted for John P. Penny.

Messrs. Beardslee, Bucher, Donovan, Glatz, Hopkins, Kinsey, Lamberton, Latta, M. Sherry, Montgomery, Reilly, Smith, Stark, Stein, Wallace and Penny, Speaker—10, voted for Hiestor Clymer.

Neither of the candidates having received a majority of votes there was no election. A 2d, 3d, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th, 101st, 102nd, 103rd, 104th, 105th, 106th, 107th, 108th, 109th, 110th, 111th, 112th, 113th, 114th, 115th, 116th, 117th, 118th, 119th, 120th, 121st, 122nd, 123rd, 124th, 125th, 126th, 127th, 128th, 129th, 130th, 131st, 132nd, 133rd, 134th, 135th, 136th, 137th, 138th, 139th, 140th, 141st, 142nd, 143rd, 144th, 145th, 146th, 147th, 148th, 149th, 150th, 151st, 152nd, 153rd, 154th, 155th, 156th, 157th, 158th, 159th, 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SENATE, 2D DAY.—The session opened by reading in place several bills, after which Mr. Lowry offered the following resolution:

WHEREAS, The Union men in the Senate of Pennsylvania were in a clear majority until one of their number, Major Harry White, Senator from Indiana, was captured by our common enemy; therefore, Resolved, That the patriotism of Harry White shall not be taken advantage of to prevent the complete organization of this body, but that the Speaker elected at the close of the session of 1863 be recognized as the duly elected Speaker of the Senate until such time as Senator White shall be released from captivity or a successor be elected from his Senatorial district, at which time it would be proper for the present Speaker to resign and that a new election for Speaker be held then.

The Senate refused to hear a second reading of the resolution by a vote of 16 to 16. Mr. Connell then offered the following:

Resolved, That the Senate having repeatedly decided by ballot not to change the Speaker, it will now proceed with the ordinary business of the session.

This resolution met the same fate as the previous one. A resolution offering thanks to Maj. Gen. Grant and his officers for their gallant services in liberating the faithful Union men of East Tennessee from a military despotism, was also defeated by a strict party vote, the Senator from this district voting "no." A 9th and 10th ballots were then had for Speaker, but no election.

Mr. Clymer, the candidate of the opposition to the National Government, then made the following proposition:

That they (the Union men) shall select, first, any office within the gift of this Senate, we to select the second, the third and so on to the end of the list. We make this offer, trusting that its fairness will commend it to the judgment of this Senate, as it certainly will commend itself to the judgment of the people of this State. We are here 16 to 16 on this floor. It is no fault of this side of the Chamber that such a state of affairs exists. It is true that one Senator is absent, etc.

A 11th ballot for Speaker was asked for, but no election was made. Several Senators then stated that they were not aware of the resignation of Senator White being received, Mr. Clymer having previously stated that

such reports were current. Mr. Lowry then spoke as follows:

For my own part, Mr. Speaker, I do not think that any person has the resignation of Senator White. And I would inform the Senator from Berks that if he is really desirous of organizing this body and proceeding to business he can by that means have Harry White back here, as I believe, within the next ten days. It is well known to the Senate and to the people of Pennsylvania that some time ago a Major from the rebel army, by the name of Jones, applied to the authorities at Washington saying that he could procure the release of Harry White in exchange for himself. The authorities, as I am informed and believe, took his parole and sent him to Richmond. He went there and was informed by the rebel authorities that he Major Jones, had no vote in the Senate of Pennsylvania, but that Major White had, and that the Union party of Pennsylvania would be disorganized in case Major White was retained. Consequently Mr. Jones was sent back to Washington.

Mr. DONOVAN. I rise to ask the Senator a question. Does the Senator from Erie wish to be understood as saying that the authorities at Richmond look upon the Republican party of Pennsylvania as the Union party?

Mr. LOWRY. There is no Union party except the Republican party and no Republican party except the Union party in this country. I do not desire to get into an angry discussion at this time, and I will not suffer myself to be led away from the question before us.

I trust that the gentleman on the other side of this House will see the necessity of not pursuing this kind of conduct further. I think it is unbecoming the dignity of a Senator to get up here and make bargains for trading off this officer for that officer. That is beneath the dignity of the Senate and unbecoming the Senator from Berks. The intention of the people of Pennsylvania to place us in a majority here could not have been expressed in stronger language than it has been.

I appeal to them as patriotic men to allow us to proceed to business. I did not think when I submitted a resolution this morning that you, sir, would be acknowledged by the other side in your position as Speaker and that we would proceed with the business until such time as Harry White should return. He will return, I have no doubt, as soon as Jeff Davis hears that we have organized without him.

Mr. Clymer thought this a profitless discussion, and if it must be entered into at all it should be with entire good feeling on both sides of the Chamber—his authority for stating the resignation of Senator White had been received, was the publication in several papers, and the statement of individuals upon the floor of the Senate. Adjourned.

SENATE, 3D DAY.—The Senate met at 11 o'clock, when the Speaker said that he was informed that his Excellency, the Governor, would communicate with the Senate, by a message in writing, at 11 o'clock to-day. A resolution was then offered, inviting "the clergy of Harrisburg to open the services of the Senate with prayer"—the Union men voting Aye, and the Opposition, Nay. Mr. Johnson then offered a resolution to appoint a committee of three to investigate the facts in reference to the alleged resignation of Senator White, "and that said committee have power to send for witnesses and papers"—the Union members voting for the resolution, and the Opposition against it.

Mr. Lowry offered the following:

Resolved, That in the re-election of Gov. Curtin the people gave a clear expression of their choice, and that any combination to thwart the will of the people by preventing his inauguration would be revolutionary in its character and should be put down.

This resolution was negated by a strict party vote. Mr. Hopkins' (Op) then desired to make a remark or two in explanation of his position on this resolution, the substance of which is embraced in the following sentence: "It must have become apparent to every Senator on this floor that there are sixteen gentlemen occupying seats here by virtue of the action of the people, who do not, who can not, and who will not recognize the claimed organization of the Senate." When Mr. Hopkins had concluded Mr. Lowry asked that Senator "if by voting in the negative he does not recognize the organization of this body just as fully as by voting in the affirmative," to which Mr. Hopkins replied "it is the best we can do."

Mr. Lowry. It is the best you can do to prevent legislation and embarrass the Senate in the transaction of its business. That is the best the Senator can do. But let me tell the Senator from Washington and the Senate of Pennsylvania, that I dare not vote any other way than that in which I have voted. We have made proposition after proposition, in every form that we could devise, in order to proceed to business and keep the wheels of legislation moving, until the vacant seat of Harry White should be filled. What more can we do? Suppose, sir, that you should issue your writ for the election of a Senator in the place of Harry White—what then? They will come in here and say you had no authority to do that. Would they join in a resolution calling upon you to take such action and therefore recognize your authority? No, sir, no proposition which does not contemplate disorganization would be acceptable to Senators on the other side of the house.

Mr. HOPKINS. That is what we do not want.

Mr. LOWRY. You want organization; but you vote against it. You want the business of the country to proceed; but you vote against it. You want prayers in this hall, and you need them (laughter); but you vote against it. You desire to thank General Grant for his noble defence of the country; but you vote against it.

After some desultory remarks, the Secretary of the Commonwealth was introduced and presented the annual message of the Governor of Pennsylvania. The Speaker ordered the Clerk to read the message, which was objected to by Mr. Lamberton. The Speaker decided the objection out of order, on the ground that the Governor had

the right to communicate with the Senate at any time, and the Clerk proceeded with the reading of the message.

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

GENTLEMEN: The past year has afforded us new cause for thankfulness to the Almighty for the moral and material blessings which he has bestowed upon us.

The balance in the Treasury on November 30, 1863, was \$2,172,844 10; Receipts during fiscal year ending November 30, 1863, \$4,289,451 65; Total in Treasury for fiscal year ending Nov. 30, 1863, \$6,462,295 75; The payments for the same period have been \$4,344,964 05; Balance in the Treasury November 30, 1863, \$2,117,331 70.

The operations of the Sinking Fund during the last year have been shown by my Proclamation of the 8th day of September last, as follows: Amount of debt of Commonwealth reduced, \$954,720 40, as follows: Coupon loan act, May 4, 1862, \$100,000 00; Five per cent, \$790,716 50; Four and one-half per cent, \$63,000 00; Relief notes cancelled, \$963 00; Domestic certificates cancelled, \$13 00; Interest certificates paid, \$27 90; Total, \$954,720 40.

Amount of Public debt of Pennsylvania as it stood on the 1st day of December, 1862 \$40,448,213 82; Deduct amount redeemed during the year ending December 31, 1863, \$1,000,000 00; Total indebtedness, \$39,448,213 82; Ending with Nov. 30, 1863, viz: Five per cent stocks, \$888,499 78; Four and one-half per cent stocks, \$63,000 00; Relief notes, \$109 00; Domestic creditors' certificates, \$8 26; Making \$951,617 04; Public debt December 31, 1863, \$39,496,596 78. Funded debt, viz: 6 per cent loans, \$400,630 00; Funded debt, viz: 5 per cent loans, \$35,709,986 45; Funded debt, viz: 4 1/2 per cent loans, \$268,290 00; Total funded debt, \$36,378,816 45. Unfunded debt, viz: Relief notes in circulation, \$97,251 00; Interest certificates outstanding, \$15,356 63; Interest certificates unclaimed, \$4,443 28; Domestic creditors' certificates, \$724 82; Total unfunded debt, \$117,780 33; Total funded and unfunded debt, \$36,496,596 78; Military loan act of May 15th, 1861, \$5,000,000 00; Total indebtedness, \$39,496,596 78.

By the act of 15th May, 1861, authorizing the military loan of \$5,000,000, a tax of one-half mill was laid on real and personal property, to furnish a fund for redeeming the same. I recommend that the commission-ers of the sinking fund be directed to invest the proceeds of the tax in State loan, so that it may be drawing interest, to be in like manner invested, or that they should apply such proceeds directly to the purchase of certificates of the military loan, and cancel such certificates as shall be purchased.

Although our finances are still in a healthy condition, it is necessary to invite the serious attention of the Legislature to the consideration of the means of maintaining them unimpaired in future.

By the act of 12th June, 1840, it was provided that the interest on the State loans should always be paid in specie or its equivalent, and that whenever the funds in the Treasury should be of less value than specie, the difference in value should be ascertained and certified to the Governor, who should thereupon issue his warrant to the agents or banks authorized to pay such interest on behalf of the Commonwealth, to allow such difference to parties receiving the interest, or at the option of the parties to pay the same in specie.

By the act of the 11th April, 1862, it was provided that for the purpose of paying in specie or its equivalent, all interest that should thereafter be due by the Commonwealth, as required by the act of 12th June, 1840, the several banks who should avail themselves of the provisions of the act, (of 11th April, 1862) and who should refuse to redeem their notes in specie, upon or after the time when such interest should become due, should thereafter, when required by the State Treasurer, by notice in writing, pay into the State Treasury, in proportion to the capital stock paid in of each bank, their ratable proportion of such premium for gold or its equivalent, as should have been actually paid by the State.

By the act of the 30th January, 1863, it was provided that the State Treasurer should exchange with the banks an amount of currency sufficient to pay the interest on the State debt falling due on the first days of February and August, 1863, by the same amount of coin, and should give to the banks specie certificates of exchange, not transferable, pledging the faith of the State to return said coin in exchange for notes current at the time, on or before the first Monday of March, 1864, such certificates to bear interest at the rate of 2 1/2 per cent per annum.

Under the provisions of the act of 1863, certain banks paid into the State Treasury \$140,768 30 as an equivalent for coin for the payment of the interest on the public debt.

Under the act of 1863, specie certificates have been given to the banks, amounting in the whole to \$1,968,904 97, which, with the amount of interest, will fall due on the first Monday of March next. As the provisions of this act were of a temporary character, the only acts now in force on the subject are those of 1840 and 1862, above mentioned, under which it will be the duty of the State authorities to pay the interest on the 1st of February, 1864, and thereafter, in coin or its equivalent, and look to the banks that may be liable under the act of 1862 for reimbursement of the premium paid by the Commonwealth.

In the face of all difficulties, this Commonwealth, actuated by a sentiment which does its people honor, has hitherto paid its interest in coin or its equivalent. Existing circumstances make it necessary to consider now the fair extent of her just obligations. The exigencies of the times have compelled the Government of the United States to issue large amounts of Treasury notes for circulation, which are not redeemable in coin, and which form the great mass of our circulating medium. It is our duty as a loyal State—it is our interest as a State whose welfare, and even safety, depend emphatically upon the maintenance of the credit and success of the military operations of the general government—to do nothing to impair its credit or embarrass its measures. On the contrary, we owe it to ourselves and to our posterity to give an active support to its efforts to quell the monstrous rebellion which is still raging, and thus restore peace to our distracted country. It is our own Government and we could not, without gross indecency, to attempt to refuse its currency in payment of taxes and other debts due to the Commonwealth.

In 1840 the case was very different. The difficulties then arose from the suspension of

specie payments by our State banks, mere local and private corporations, and the State very properly by the act of that year, intended to provide against loss to its creditors by reason of such suspensions. An exigency like the present could not then have been foreseen by the Legislature, and it is to be inferred therefore that they could not have intended to provide for it. We derive our system of public loans from Europe, and the true extent of our obligation is to be ascertained by referring to the known established practice of European governments prior to the dates when our loans were effected. I mean of course such of those governments as were held to have maintained their national credit. It is believed to have been the uniform practice of such governments to pay their interest in paper currency, however depreciated, during a legalized suspension of specie payments. An observable instance of this is afforded by the course of the British Government, which during 25 years, from 1797 to 1822, during which the bank was prohibited by law from paying out coin for any purpose, paid the interest on its public debts in bank notes, which during a great part of that time were at a heavy discount, sometimes amounting to 30 per cent, or thereabout. Their necessities then were not greater than ours are now.

Among ourselves, at the present time, Massachusetts (whose debt is believed to be very small) pays the interest in coin. Ohio and Indiana pay in currency. In New York it is not known what will be done. Her Legislature by concurrent resolution, ordered the interest to be paid in coin to foreign stockholders, in April last.

At the present rate of premium on gold, the sum necessary to pay on an amount sufficient to discharge the annual interest on the State debt, would be more than \$1,000,000, and to meet this additional taxation to that extent would be unavoidable. The demand on the Treasury for other necessary purposes must probably be such as to render it imprudent to throw any part of this expenditure on the existing surplus. To borrow money from year to year, to pay the interest on past loans would, of course, be wholly inadmissible. To leave the act of 1862 in force, and attempt to throw the payment of this large premium annually upon the banks, would not only be flagrantly unjust, but impracticable. I recommend the whole subject to the careful and immediate consideration of the Legislature. Some legislation ought to be had on it before the close of the present month. In my opinion the Commonwealth will have fulfilled her obligations by providing for the payment of her interest in the currency of the Government. If the Legislature should think fit to continue to pay it in coin, it