

BEDFORD INQUIRER AND CHRONICLE.

N. Ellmaker, J. B. Rutherford, D. L. Jones, E. L. Foster, Washington Crooks, Isaac Benson, P. Stewart, Jno. Passmore, C. H. Egner, W. P. Clark, J. Skinner, A. W. Crawford, R. Everett, James Augustine, E. Hollingson, Geo. W. Strouse, A. B. Miller, H. Huh.

Mr. Vanvorhies, from the Committee on Permanent Officers, reported the following, which was unanimously adopted:

PRESIDENT. JOHN S. BOWEN, Chester County.

VICE PRESIDENTS. S. B. Chase, Susquehanna. Robert McKnight, Allegheny. W. W. Taylor, Montgomery. J. B. Miller, Fayette. Thos. Strubbers, Warren. Wm. Jenkinson, Montour. Walter Sedgwick, Schuylkill. William Henry, Beaver. W. W. Hamersley, Lehigh. A. S. Henderson, Lancaster. Geo. S. King, Cambria. M. H. Taggart, Union. Wareham Warner, Erie.

SECRETARIES. A. L. Hennescholz, Berks. James A. Ekin, Allegheny. A. N. Bankin, Franklin. James Fox, Dauphin. Wm. P. Minor, Luzerne. Jno. H. Wells, Greene.

The President was conducted to the chair, by Messrs. Ebert and Moorhead, and briefly addressed the Convention.

Mr. Bowen said that although a burden was thrown upon him which he might say was distressing, yet he returned his most grateful and humble acknowledgments to the Convention for the honor conferred upon him. It was a proud thing to preside over such a Convention, assembled for the performance of a great duty and the maintenance of great principles. Guided by union, harmony and a love of principle, he trusted that the result of the Convention would be a triumph in the election at hand. He was not able to enter, even in the briefest degree, into the discussion of principles at this time. The hearts and minds of all are full of them. The memories of the last campaign were dear to all their minds, as well as the memories of the sad scenes of grand enacted in our midst. Let us, in view of those things, unite with the single purpose of victory, which harmony would make sure. If he committed error in the discharge of his duties, he would be governed by the best motives.

The committee on credentials being retired, and being likely to be detained some time in the discharge of their duties, the Convention, after some time, Adjourned till seven o'clock, P. M.

EVENING SESSION.

March 25, 1857.

Convention re-assembled at 7 o'clock. Mr. Coffey, Chairman of the committee on credentials, made report; which was read as follows:

The Committee to whom were referred the credentials of delegates whose seats were disputed, respectfully report— That they have examined the credentials and heard the statements of the respective claimants, and report as follows:

1. City of Philadelphia—Chas. Gilpin and Geo. A. Coffey claim seats as Senators, and Chas. Gibbons, Benjamin Buckler, E. R. McDowell and Wm. Elliott as Representative delegates, under a certificate of their election by the Republican City Legislative Convention held at the County Court House on Tuesday afternoon March 3, 1857, and are by its terms elected to the Republican State Convention.

Stillwell S. Bishop and Daniel B. Beiler as Senatorial, and Geo. T. Thorn, Jacob Drek, Geo. R. Smith and R. K. Smith as Representative delegates, claim seats under a certificate of a meeting held on the 31 of March, which meeting was held under a call published in one or more city papers addressed to all Americans who favor the Union call.

2. County of Philadelphia—The following gentlemen viz:—J. D. Ninsteele, Jonathan Bullock, A. G. Rowland, M. H. Dickinson, W. B. Thomas, B. B. Reimer, J. H. Billington, Arch. Little, John Christian, Wm. Steel, Geo. Gillingham, W. D. Kelley, J. Cooper, and J. M. Butler, claim seats under certificates of election at a Republican meeting held at different dates in February and early in March, to the Republican State Convention under the call of Mr. Gibbons.

The following gentlemen viz:—N. Thorn, I. C. Bryant, P. R. Schuyler, W. P. Cooper, M. Myers, W. M. Wilson, J. Alex. Simpson, J. L. Smith, G. H. Moore, H. Kriebbaum, (2 vacancies), W. Moran, Geo. Reed and C. Wister, claim seats under a certificate of a meeting held on Thursday evening, 19th inst., at Nell's Hotel in pursuance of a call as follows, published in the Philadelphia Times.

UNION STATE CONVENTION.

The Citizens of the county of Philadelphia, favorable to the election of Delegates to the above named Convention, in pursuance to the call of the opposition members of the Legislature, are requested to meet at Nell's Hotel, northwest corner of Ninth and Green, on Thursday Evening, the 19th inst., at 8 o'clock, to elect Delegates to represent the County in said Convention, mh14-19] MANY UNION MEN.

3. Delaware county—Joshua P. Byro claims a seat under certificate of meeting of the Republican party held at the Court House, at Media, on Saturday, 28th Feb-

ruary, 1857, to elect Delegates to the Republican State Convention. Their call was addressed to the Republican citizens and all others disposed to abandon their present political organizations and unite in carrying out the principles of the platform adopted by the National Convention of 16th of June 1856.

H. Jones Brooks claims this seat under a call of a Union County Meeting held in pursuance of the legislative call for a Union Convention on the 19th of March inst.

4. Adams county—Wm. King claims this seat as Representative Delegate under a substitution from E. G. Falmestock, who was chosen Delegate by the Union County Committee of Adams county.

John C. Ellis claims the seat under a certificate of election by a Republican meeting held at New Oxford, on 19th March, 1857, said meeting having been called by the New Oxford Republican Association. His credentials are as delegate to the Republican State Convention, as follows:

Mr. King, who is the substitute of Dr. Falmestock, was appointed by the County Committee according to the usage of the county.

5. York—Thos. E. Cochran and others claim seats under certificates of an American and Republican meeting held 18th March, 1857, after notice published in all opposition papers except one, for about two weeks. Sam'l Herman and others claim seats under certificates of election by a meeting held 21st March, 1857, of Americans, upon notice of one day.

6. Cumberland county—James R. Smith and B. F. Lee claim seats under certificates of election at a Union county Convention, held 16th March, 1857, called to elect delegates to the Union State Convention. Wm. M. Watts and John Gleason claim seats under certificates of a meeting held 21st March, 1857, of Republicans, and elected delegates to the Republican State Convention.

7. Lycoming, Potter and Clinton—Leonard Ullman, of Lycoming, claims a seat as Representative Delegate, elected by county convention of Lycoming county, to Union Convention.

D. S. Dunham, substitute of J. P. Haling, claims seat as delegate from Clinton county, under election held in Clinton county.

Isaac Benson, of Potter, claims seat under election in Potter county. No conference meeting in this district, which is entitled to two delegates.

8. John C. Watson claims seat under certificate of election by Republican county convention, held 23d March, 1857, at Harrisburg, which also elected Senatorial Congress, who, without the concurrence of the two other counties of the district, selected Dr. John McCullough as Senatorial Delegate.

David Blair claims a seat under a certificate of election by a Union county convention, held 23d March, 1857, which was called in pursuance of the Legislative Union call.

9. Centre county—Samuel Linn, elected at a meeting on the 20th March, 1857, to Republican State Convention.

W. W. Brown was elected on same day by another meeting.

10. Jefferson—D. C. Gillespie, G. B. P. Lucas, both claim seats and have agreed to come in with one vote.

Resolved, That it is the opinion of this committee, that the delegates from the city and county of Philadelphia, claiming seats under the call issued by the chairman of the Republican State Executive Committee were regularly elected delegates to the Convention, and that the persons contesting their seats were not regularly elected.

Resolved, That Joshua P. Byro, was the regularly elected delegate from the county of Delaware.

Resolved, That Jas. R. Smith and B. F. Lee are the regularly elected delegates from the county of Cumberland.

Resolved, That John C. Ellis is the regularly elected delegate from the county of Adams.

Resolved, That Thos. E. Cochran and his associates, are the regularly elected delegates from the county of York.

Resolved, That Sam'l Linn and W. W. Brown, the delegates from Centre, having compromised their difficulties, should be both admitted to seats in the convention, with the right to but one vote between them.

Resolved, That Leonard Ullmer, D. S. Dunham and Isaac Benson, of Lycoming, should be admitted to seats in the convention, with two votes.

Resolved, That Dr. McCullough is entitled to a seat, as Senatorial delegate from the counties of Huntingdon, Blair and Cambria, his contestant not appearing before the committee to assert his claim.

Resolved, That Jno C Watson is the regularly elected delegate from the county of Huntingdon.

Resolved, That the delegates from Jefferson should both be admitted, having reconciled their differences, but should only be entitled to one vote.

The report being read,

Mr. Cooper said he had a word to say in reference to the report of the committee and the resolution accompanying it. He thought that the resolution ought not to be adopted. The committee had a specific duty to perform, which was to examine the credentials of the several claimants and report the facts to the convention. All

their action beyond this was surplusage.—He moved that the report of the committee, with the exception of the resolution, be adopted.

Mr. Ellis did not consent, as a member of the committee to the resolution, because he thought it was travelling beyond their duty. It was the duty of the convention to decide who were the delegates. From the facts that appeared before the committee, the gentlemen elected in pursuance of the legislative call, were as regular as those elected under the Republican call. It was not true in fact that the delegates elected under the legislative call were not regularly elected. The meetings were regularly held. The minority had not time to present a report expressing their views in opposition to the majority.

THURSDAY'S PROCEEDINGS. Thursday, March 26. The Convention re-assembled at 9 o'clock, A. M. The list of delegates was read and corrected.

On motion, the Convention proceeded to the nomination of candidates for Governor, as follows:

Mr. Riply nominated Gen. James K. Moorhead, of Allegheny.

Mr. Eakin nominated David Wilmot, of Bradford.

Mr. Crooks, Francis Jordan, of Bedford. Mr. Coffey, Jno Covode, of Westmoreland.

Mr. Cochran, T. E. Franklin, of Lancaster.

Mr. Lowry, G. J. Ball, of Erie.

Mr. Crawford, J. M. Sullivan, of Butler. Mr. Rauch, P. S. Michler, of Northampton.

Mr. Power, R. B. M'Comb, of Lawrence.

Mr. Smith, Lemuel Todd, of Cumberland.

Mr. Moore, R. B. Moorhead, of Indiana.

Mr. Read, J. R. Edie, of Somerset.

Mr. Thorn, Rob't T. Conrad, of Philadelphia.

Mr. Bressler, A. G. Curtin, of Centre.

Mr. G. R. Smith, Henry Souther, of Elk.

Mr. Merriam, A. Handekeeper, of Crawford.

Mr. Taggart, J. C. Kunkle, of Dauphin.

Mr. Simpson, W. H. Keim, of Berks.

On motion of Mr. Warner, the nominations closed.

The nominations being closed, Mr. Dickey presented a letter from Hon. Thomas E. Franklin; which was read, as follows:—

Lancaster, March 24, 1857. O J Dickey, Esq—My Dear Sir—

our political friends in Lancaster county, who have with entire unanimity instructed their delegates to the Union convention which is to assemble at Harrisburg to-morrow, to use all honorable exertions to secure my nomination for Governor; and I feel equally thankful to those friends in other parts of the State, who have communicated their preferences in my behalf, and indicated to me their desire that I would accept the nomination. Circumstances, however, over which I have no control, render it inexpedient for me to accede to their wishes; and I must therefore request you to inform your colleagues from Lancaster county, and if necessary, to announce to the convention my determination to decline the nomination.

Hoping that the convention may be able to select candidates who will be acceptable to the whole opposition, to the destructive principles and policy of the general government, and that their action will be sustained in the triumphant election of their nominees, I remain,

Very truly, yours, &c, THOMAS E. FRANKLIN.

Mr. Rutherford presented a letter from Hon J C Kunkel; which was read as follows:—

To the Delegates to the Union State convention, from the tenth congressional district.

Gentlemen—With sincere gratitude to my political friends of the tenth congressional district, for the renewed expression of their kind partiality, I request you to withhold my name from the consideration of the convention.

Very respectfully, your obt's serv't, J C KUNKEL.

Mr. POWER presented a letter from Mr. HUIDEKOPER, which was read as follows:—

MEDVILLE, March 16, 1857. MY DEAR SIR:—Through the kindness of some of my friends my name has been suggested in connection with others to be presented to the Convention on the 25th inst., when making its selection of a candidate for Governor.

It has been a pleasure to me hitherto in political action, to feel that I could advocate the simple rights of humanity, and what I conceived to be the true principles of political economy with unselfish freedom having no personal aspirations after either the honors or emoluments of office.

I see no necessity to sacrifice this private gratification on the altar of public duty on this occasion. There are many good men and true, I am happy in knowing, belonging to that party which the Convention represents, of more enlarged experience, and whose nomination would carry with it a greater weight of popularity than my own. In combination with right political principles, and unswerving integrity,

the Convention will not over look personal popularity as an element of success in the coming canvass. May I ask you, therefore, should our delegation under its instructions, think proper to present my name at all to the Convention, to withdraw it at a proper time, and to say to my friends that my gratitude for their consideration will be demonstrated in the heartiness with which I hope to support the nominee which the Convention in its wisdom shall select.

Trusting that your deliberations may be conducted in a spirit of harmony, seeking exclusively the welfare of our beloved commonwealth, I remain very respectfully, and truly yours, A. HUIDEKOPER.

Mr. Petriken withdrew the name of Col. Andrew G. Curtin.

Mr. Geo. T. Thorne withdrew the name of Rob't T. Conrad.

Mr. N. Thorne withdrew the name of R. B. Moorhead.

Mr. Edie withdrew his name from the list of candidates.

A letter was received from HENRY SOUTHER, withdrawing his name, as follows:—

HARRISBURG, March, 26. To the Union Convention.

GENTLEMEN: I have had the honor to be nominated in your convention as a candidate for Governor. The compliment is fully appreciated by me. I request that my name shall be withdrawn from the list of nominees. The crisis demands a better man than myself to bear the banner of opposition to the Democracy in the ensuing election, and as such men are now in nomination the drawing off of votes from them upon men who cannot receive the nomination will retard the proceedings of the convention and part prove its final result.

Respectfully yours, H. SOUTHER.

On motion, the convention proceeded to vote viva voce, for a candidate FOR GOVERNOR.

David Wilmot received 59 votes

Lemuel Todd " 21 "

Gideon J. Ball " 19 "

Francis Jordan " 13 "

John Covode " 13 "

J. K. Moorhead " 7 "

Peter S. Michler " 7 "

John M. Sullivan " 7 "

R. B. M'Comb " 5 "

John C. Kunkel " 1 "

Wm. H. Keim " 1 "

Whole number of votes, 153, necessary to a choice, 77.

Neither of the candidates having a majority of votes cast, there was no election.

M'Comb, Keim and Sullivan, were then withdrawn.

On motion, the convention proceeded to a SECOND VOTE

David Wilmot received 99 votes

Lemuel Todd " 24 "

G. J. Ball " 22 "

John Covode " 15 "

J. K. Moorhead " 2 "

Whole number of votes 162; necessary to a choice, 81.

David Wilmot having received a majority of all the votes cast, was declared duly nominated.

Mr. Geo. R. Smith came to the convention for the purpose of opposing the nomination of Mr. Wilmot; the delegation to which he belonged had been admitted to seats and had a fair hearing. He would support the nomination most cordially, and therefor moved that the nomination be declared unanimous.

Mr. Thorn seconded the motion most heartily.

Mr. T. J. Coffey had opposed the nomination of Wilmot, but would now give a cordial support. He pledged in Indiana county, as good for 2,500 majority for Wilmot.

Mr. Lary had presented the name of Mr. Ball to the convention, in obedience to the wishes of his constituents. He had no doubt that the nomination of Mr. Wilmot would be cordially sustained by his constituents.

Mr. Riply pledged Allegheny county to give 6,000 majority for Wilmot.

Mr. Seth, of Cumberland, on behalf of the friends of Mr. Todd, cordially concurred in the nomination of Mr. Wilmot.

The nomination of Mr. Wilmot was unanimously affirmed.

On motion, the convention proceeded to a first vote for

CANAL COMMISSIONER.

Wm M'ward received 100 votes

Wm E. Rorer " 26 "

John G. Myers " 14 "

Benj Htshorn " 4 "

John Sigrass " 4 "

D. E. Chwright " 8 "

Jno Chasing " 3 "

Wm M'ward having received a majority of all the votes cast, was declared duly nominated; and

On motion, the nomination was made unanimous.

The convention then adjourned till 2 o'clock afternoon.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Mr. Wm, on behalf of Wm M'ward, returned thanks to the convention for the honor conferred upon him in this nomination as candidate for Canal Commissioner.

On motion the convention proceeded to nominate candidates for Supreme Judges. The convention then proceeded to vote

viva voce for Supreme Judge, from the western part of the State, as follows:

Jas Veech, 86 Daniel Andrew, 11

Moses Hampton, 25 B P Johnston, 9

T M Connell, 1 W M Stephenson, 3

Isaac Fisher, 4 H W Williams, 5

Whole number of votes 147, necessary to a choice 76.

James Veech having received a majority of all the votes cast, was declared duly nominated; and

On motion, the Convention proceeded to vote for a candidate for Supreme Judge for the Eastern portion of the State as follows:

Jos J Lewis received 88 votes

Jas Cooper " 38 "

J. Pringle Jones " 12 "

Jas. T. Hale " 11 "

Joshua W. Condy " 2 "

Whole number of votes cast, 151; necessary to a choice, 76.

Joseph J. Lewis having received a majority of all the votes cast, was declared duly nominated.

The nomination was then declared unanimous.

Judge Kelley's resolution, that a committee of nine be appointed by the Chair, to draft resolutions expressive of the sense of the Convention, came up for consideration, and was adopted.

The chairman appointed the following gentlemen the committee, viz:—

Wm. D. Kelley, Jacob Hoffman, Thos. E. Cochran, John R. Edie, S. P. McCalmont, W. A. Cook, Titian J. Coffey, Morrow B. Lowrey, Geo. T. Thorn.

The Convention having again assembled, Judge KELLEY from the Committee on Resolutions, made the following report, viz:—

The Convention of Delegates, representing the Freeman of Pennsylvania, opposed to the leading measures of the late National Administration, and the continuance of the same destructive policy clearly foreshadowed by the actual declarations of the administration just inaugurated, do

Resolve, That the maintenance of the principles promulgated in the Declaration of Independence, and embodied in the Federal Constitution, is essential to the preservation of our Republican institutions; that the Federal Constitution, the liberties of the people, the sovereign rights of the States, and the Union of the States, must and shall be preserved.

Resolved, That with our Republican fathers, we hold it to be a self-evident truth, that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness; that to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men; and that the primary duty and object of our Federal Government is to secure these rights to all persons under its exclusive jurisdiction. That, as our Republican fathers abolished Slavery in all the national territory, and ordained in the Constitution that no person shall be deprived of life, liberty or property, without due process of law, it becomes our duty to maintain this provision of the Constitution against all attempts to violate it, for the purpose of establishing Slavery in the territories of the United States. That we deny the authority of Congress, of the Supreme Court, of a Territorial Legislature, or of any other body of men, to give legal existence to Slavery in any territory of the United States, while the Constitution shall remain in force.

Resolved, That the Constitution confers upon Congress sovereign power over the Territories of the United States, for their government, a power not controverted for the first sixty years of our national existence, but exercised by the general concurrence of all departments of the Government, through every Administration from WASHINGTON to POLK; and that in the exercise of this unquestionable power, it is the duty of Congress to prohibit in the Territories, those twin relics of barbarism, polygamy and Slavery.

Resolved, THAT WE ARE FREE MEN, and that while we retain the inalienable rights of Freedom, secured to us by the sacrifices, sufferings and blood of our Revolutionary fathers, we will not submit to have a new Constitution imposed upon us by the extra-judicial opinions of Judges of the Supreme Court, or by the usurpation of the rights of human nature, in conflict with the truth of history, with the unbroken action of the government and the law of the land, and the resolutions pronounced by the Federal Judiciary, and the Courts of nearly every State in the American Union.

Resolved, That the recent opinions of the majority of the Judges of the Supreme Court, in cases over which they decided the Court had no jurisdiction, and therefore, no authority to pronounce the law arising therein, is but another step in consummation of that conspiracy against free institutions, which had its inception in the repeal of the Missouri Compromise of the Slave Power in the election of its candidate, JAMES BUCHANAN, to the Presidency, and which program is being carried by the people at the ballot-box, not to be followed by other usurpations fatal to the independence of the Free States and the liberties of our people.

Resolved, That the constitutional rights of the people of Kansas have been flagrantly and violently taken from them. Their territory has been invaded by an armed force; spurious and pretended legislative, judicial and executive officers have been set over them, by whose usurped authority, sustained by the military power of the Federal Government, tyrannical and unconstitutional laws have been enacted and enforced; the right of the people to keep and bear arms has been infringed; test oaths of an extraordinary and entangling nature have been imposed as a condition of exercising the right of suffrage and holding office; the right of an accused person to a speedy and public trial by an impartial jury has been denied; cruel and unusual punishments have been inflicted upon the innocent, while murders, robberies and arson have been instigated and encouraged, and the offenders have been allowed to go unpunished; the right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures, has been violated; they have been deprived of life, liberty and property, without due process of law; the freedom of speech and of the press has been abridged; the right to choose their representatives has been made of no effect; That all these things have been done with the knowledge, sanction and violation of the plain mandates of the Constitution; That the usurpation by which a spurious Legislature was inaugurated upon Kansas, and its people subjected to a code of laws unparalleled for cruelty in the history of civilized nations, is still in full force, and the people are denied the right peacefully to assemble and petition for a redress of grievances; That the National Executive has permitted two Governors of his appointment to be driven from the Territory under fear of assassination, and has not dared to exert its power for their protection against the lawless minions of Slavery; while judicial monsters and men whose hands are red with innocent blood, are retained in office, to carry out the work of subjecting free territory to the cause of Slavery. Kansas has been denied admission under a free constitution, and fraudulent means are now in progress to secure its admission as a Slave State at the next session of Congress. Against this stupendous wrong, we protest, in the name of God and HUMANITY—by all that is glorious in our history, and by the memory of the great and good men who established our liberties.

Resolved, That it is a fraud upon our laws, and fraught with danger to our institutions, to admit to a full participation in their benefits any man who acknowledges a foreign allegiance.

Resolved, That the sale of the main line of our improvements, is demanded by every consideration that should weigh with intelligent and honest men. As a source of revenue, it is wholly worthless to the State, while it is notoriously used as a means of peculation and plunder, thereby inflicting upon the State pecuniary loss, and also irreparable and political injury, in the almost universal demoralization and political profligacy engendered throughout its entire extent.

Resolved, That we invite the affluence and cooperation of men of all parties, however differing with us in other respects, in support of the principles herein declared, and believing that the spirit of our institutions, as well as the Constitution of our country, guarantees liberty of conscience and equality of rights among citizens, we oppose all legislation impeding their security.

The reading of the resolutions was greeted with frequent bursts of applause. The resolutions embodying the American sentiment, especially, elicited the most unbounded enthusiasm. They were read in an eloquent manner, by Judge Kelley, the Chairman of the committee.

On motion of Geo. R. Smith, the resolutions were adopted in mass, by acclamation; and with nine long, loud and hearty cheers, for the platform and the candidates.

Judge Kelley, of Philadelphia, Messrs. Cook, Fayette, Gibbons, Philadelphia, M'Comb, Lawrence, Lowrey, Erie, Hampton, Allegheny, Cochran, York, were severally called out, and addressed the Convention.

A motion was then made that the Convention adjourn sine die; when

Mr. Bowen, President, briefly addressed the body in a strain of finished eloquence, in reference to the doings of the Convention, the happy issue of their labors, and the auspicious results which are promised. On closing, he

Adjourned the Convention sine die.

which he cannot conscientiously and without mental reservation, affirm and forever renounce; whether that supremacy be civil or spiritual.

Resolved, That the stupendous frauds by which our popular elections are swayed against a majority of the legally qualified voters, strikes at the foundation and life of our system of government; and unless speedily corrected, will lead to violence and anarchy; and we urge upon all good citizens to unite for the suppression of this evil; and we call upon our own Legislature to guard by effective and stringent laws the purity of the ballot box.

Resolved, That the sale of the main line of our improvements, is demanded by every consideration that should weigh with intelligent and honest men. As a source of revenue, it is wholly worthless to the State, while it is notoriously used as a means of peculation and plunder, thereby inflicting upon the State pecuniary loss, and also irreparable and political injury, in the almost universal demoralization and political profligacy engendered throughout its entire extent.

Resolved, That we invite the affluence and cooperation of men of all parties, however differing with us in other respects, in support of the principles herein declared, and believing that the spirit of our institutions, as well as the Constitution of our country, guarantees liberty of conscience and equality of rights among citizens, we oppose all legislation impeding their security.