OFFICIAL.

LOUISIANA LEGISLATURE.

Journal of the House of Representatives.

THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 1850.

The House met pursuant to adjournment.

On the roll being called a quorum was present.

Leave of absence was granted to Messrs. Moore, McMichael, Gill and Marks,

And for the balance of the session to Mr. Coco, on account of sickness.

The following gentlemen introduced the following petitions and memorials:

Mr. Blake—Memorial of Augustin Perron. Referred to Committee on Claims.

Mr. Parker—Petition of W. E. Monaghan, in relation to Legislature Telegraph.

Referred to Committee on Contingent Expenses.

Mr. Wilder—Memorial of Louis Caldwell, praying for relief.

Referred to Committee on Propositions and Grievances.

The following members introduced the following entitled bills:

On motion, the rules being dispensed with, said bills were read a second time by their respective titles and referred to their appropriate Committees.

Mr. Shannon—An act for the protection of the Parish of Point Coupee.

Referred to a Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Larue—An act to appropriate money to defray the expenses incurred in making an enquiry into the means of protecting the city of New Orleans.

Referred to Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Wilder—An act to repeal an act entitled an act, to render inspections voluntary, approved March 11, 1848.

Referred to Committee on Commerce.

Mr. Wilder—Resolutions authorizing the Governor to procure suitable medals to be presented to the officers and others of Louisiana Volunteers.

Referred to Committee on Militia.

Mr. King, on behalf of the Judiciary Committee, to whom was referred the bill, entitled:

An act to provide for the collection of moneys due to the State Treasury, by the administrators of successions opened in the State of Louisiana,

Reported the same back to the House without amendments.

The same member on behalf of the same Committee, to whom was referred the following entitled bills:

An act for the relief of O. G. Drehr.

An act to regulate suits by summary process, between landlords and tenants.

An act to repeal act 218 of the session of 1847, and the act of 1849, amending the same.

An act to authorize and empower the Clerk of the Parish Pointe of the Parish of Orleans, to administer oaths and take affidavits of persons confined in said Parish Prison, in all cases where such oaths or affidavits are required by law.

An act to provide for the possession of the Parish Offices, during a contested election.

An act for the relief of Solomon John,

Reported the same back to the House with amendments.

The same member on behalf of the same Committee to whom was referred the following entitled bills:

An act for the relief of Henry Funderburk.

An act to abolish forced heirships.

An act to abolish community of acquits and gains, to make provision for the surviving wife and change the law of succession to the community in favor of the surviving husband.

An act to abolish tacit and legal mortgages, and to compel all Tutors to give security.

An act to repeal second section of an act to celebrate marriage.

An act to amend 276 article of the Code of Practice.

An act, to restore to his civil rights, Charles A. Cammayer, of the city of New Orleans.

An act to create a general weigh master for the city and port of New Orleans.

Memorial of certain citizens of New Orleans, praying to abolish the preference docket.

Petition of James B. Rowley.

Reported adversely to their adoption.

The same member on behalf of the same Committee, to whom was referred the following entitled bills:

An act to provide for the protection of persons and property against explosions of boilers on board of steam vessels plying on the waters of the State of Louisiana, by competent engineers and to punish their negligence.

An act providing for the safety of persons and property on board of steamboats navigating in the State of Louisiana.

And a petition of certain citizens calling for a Board of Commissioners,

Reported by a substitute under the following title:

Resolutions requesting our Representatives and instructing our Senators in Congress, to have a law passed authorizing the appointment of Commissioners to enforce the laws of the U. S. providing for the safety of persons and property on board of steamboats plying in the waters of this State.

On motion, the rules being dispensed with, said resolutions underwent their several readings and were passed.

The Clerk was directed to request the concurrence of the Senate thereto.

Mr. Lumsden, on behalf of the Committee on Militia, to whom was referred the bill, entitled:

An act for the relief of Jose A. Hernandez, veteran of 1814 and '15

Reported the same back to the House without amendments

On motion the same was referred to the Committee of the Whole House

The same member, on behalf of the same Committee, to whom was referred the bill, entitled:

An act to amend an act, entitled, an act for the organization and discipline of the militia, of the State of Louisiana, approved March 19th, 1842.

Mr. Connelly, on behalf of the Committee on Internal Improvements, to whom was referred the bill, entitled:

An act to protect the town of Donaldsonville,

Reported the same back to to the House with amendments.

The same member, on behalf of the same Committee, to whom was referred the following entitled bill and resolutions:

Resolution directing the State Engineer to complete the levee at New Carthage.

An act to improve the navigation of Black Lake Bayou, in the Parish of Bienville.

Resolutions in regard to swamp roads,

Reported the same back to the House without amendments.

The same member, on behalf of the same Committee, to whom was referred the resolutions of the State of Texas, relative to the removal of the Red River raft, reported that they consider the propositions and recommendations in said resolutions to be valuable, and calculated to greatly advance the interests of this part of the Union; that under the provisions of our State Constitution, no company can be incorporated by the Legislature in the manner proposed by said resolutions.

Mr. J. Lanaux, on behalf of the Committee on Unfinished Business, reported the following entitled bill:

An act for the relief of Bazille Martin, f. m. c., veteran of '14 and '15.

Mr Rivers, on behalf of the Joint Committee on Levees, submitted the following report and resolution:

The Joint and Special Committee, appointed to inquire into the present law governing and making levees in the State, and, also, to have full power to send for persons and documents to arrive at the best means to be recommended, so as to prevent the frequent overflows of the Mississippi River, and other streams connected therewith, begleave to report:—

That in the exercise of the power vested in them, they immediately invited the attendance of a number of practical and scientific gentlemen before your Committee, and from them, and also from various other sources, have obtained a rich fund of valuable information as to the best modes and means of preventing inundations, accompanied in some cases with diagrams and illustrations, which is made an appendix to this report; but as there appears much conflict of opinion in the plans and recommendations proposed by the sincere authorities, as well as a disagreement of the members on many important subjects connected with their deliberations, your Committee do not feel fully prepared to give the preference to any particular plan.

They would therefore recommend the printing of the information they have compiled, with the accompanying diagrams, so as to cause its general dissemination among the people, believing that much practical good would result therefrom.

Your Committee have agreed on a few general recommendations to which they ask the favorable consideration of the House.

1. They would recommend that a Board of Engineers be constituted by authorizing the Governor to appoint two Engineers, and those joined with the State Engineer, to constitute a board to make a hydrographic and topographical survey of all the alluvions of the State, and to report on plans for preventing inundations at the next Legislature, with estimates of the cost, &c., and to make such suggestions as may assist the Legislature to legislate advisedly on this difficult, but important subject.

2. That our members in Congress be requested to use their best efforts to obtain the assistance of two or more of the United States Topographical Engineers, to assist the board in their survey.

3. Also, that in consequence of the abrasion of the banks of the Mississippi River, by the never ceasing wave from steamboats, ascending and descending, as well as the great advantage, the General Government has received, from the reclamation of land inseperable from the levee system, projected and kept up at immense expense, both by State and individual enterprise. That our Senators and Representatives in Congress be requested to use all the means in their power to obtain a relinquishment of all the lands within the State limits, to the State for levee purposes.

4. That we would further recommend the removal of all obstructions from Bayous Plaquemine, Lafourche and Atchafalaya.

Your Committee, having agreed on a general levee law, which will be reported simultaneously to the Senate with this report, would respectfully ask to be finally discharged from any further consideration of the subject.

D. L. RIVERS, Chairman.

Resolved, That the State Printer be required to print 1000 copies of the report of the Special and Joint Committee on Levees, with the accompanying documents as an appendix thereto.

Mr. Bower, on behalf of the delegation from Bayou Gauche, to whom was referred the bill, entitled:

An act to provide for the liquidation of the claims against and of the debts of the corporation of Bayou Gauche,

Reported back with amendments.

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