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NEW ORLEANS:
FRIDAY MORNING, MARCH 8, 1867.

THE LEGISLATURE.—Mr. Fenner, of Orleans, introduced a bill in the House yesterday, proposing a change in the bill for calling a State Convention, so as to conform with the requirements of the Military Reconstruction bill as passed by Congress, as will be seen by the report of the proceedings of the Legislature.

GERMAN IMMIGRATION.

We have been informed by private letters from Berlin, Prussia, that no little excitement exists at present on account of certain reports that have lately been received in that country regarding the treatment of German laborers in the South ern States. A letter from New Orleans has been published in the Prussian capital, and it has aroused a deep feeling against the South, and more particularly against Southern planters. We are inclined to think that these reports are not without foundation, although the circumstances may have been greatly exaggerated. We know them to be of great importance, however, and the interests of the South demand a searching investigation and an authorized report. We have a Bureau of Emigration in this State, and it should see that such damaging reports are contradicted. It certainly should be possessed of information concerning its specialty, when the matter has become public talk in many of the large German towns and cities. If immigrants are treated with cruelty, or are neglected, the fact should be an immediate change; if the report is false, it should have an immediate contradiction. We have here many thousands of Germans who have prospered and amassed wealth by their industry, energy and frugality, and to whom our city is largely indebted for a large share of their marked public spirit which has added so much to the prosperity of New Orleans. This class of our citizens has won the respect and esteem of all, and we may rest assured that they will not see their country men maltreated or misled by dishonest agents without taking the matter in hand. If any evils exist in the present system of immigration they should be brought to the notice of the German citizens of the South, and especially to the notice of those influential men, who are well known here. Yesterday we received a letter from a gentleman in Berlin, enclosing a slip cut from one of the papers, which we here translate:

Rudolf Lorow's *New Yorker Belletristisches Journal* publishes a letter from New Orleans, in which it is stated that the German emigrants to the Southern States of the Union, experienced the most horrible trouble. The agents sent to Germany last winter and spring from the cot ton country, and those other human-being hunters, lurking in New York and New Orleans, at the landing piers to catch the green emigrants, to make them the most brilliant offers, and show them the most attractive prospects for the future, and all they can get to the South, where they are treated like *Dutch negroes*. The abandoned agent-rogue lists were their stalking horses; four pounds of pickled pork and one flour were their weekly food. Those who tried to escape—very few—all probably died, or they were left at the mercy of the miserable planters. Even the laborers willing to work could not stand the heat of that climate, and with their wives and children were taken down by the fever, without any medical assistance and without any other food than that above described. Less of the laborers who would not remain upon the places did not get a cent for their work. Like skeletons, these men came to New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Vicksburg and Memphis, which journeys they performed on foot after many vicissitudes, ragged, nearly dead, then laid down by the river, with death and starvation. Many were found dead in hospitals, or upon the terrible journey, before they could reach New Orleans or St. Louis. As things are at present, I call the attention of my countrymen—to keep off these agents that would make them proposals for emigration to the States of North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas and Louisiana.

In the accompanying letter the gentleman asks if such things can be true, and seems to have very serious apprehension. He is one who has had a great deal to do with emigration, and would gladly aid the South in getting laborers provided he could receive the assurance that his countrymen could be well and fairly treated. He mentions the reports that have spread considerably in Germany, and asks us to assure him that they are untrue. In the main we believe that they are untrue, yet it is more than probable that the hardships of a small body of laborers have been taken as a type of the whole who come to the South yet the matter is of so much importance that this should be at least answered without a proper examination. If such things really do exist, they must be corrected; if they do not exist, then the slander must be refuted. It should be done at any cost, even to the sending of a man to Germany who can give the people assurances. It is not easy to reach the better class of Germans by newspaper reports, since they live in a country where the press is controlled by the Government; but a good agent, a gentleman who knows something of diplomacy, and who could get the entrée of the better society would have great influence. We fear that the agents sent hitherto have not been of the right stamp. We know those German gentlemen well, and understand the little peculiarities of their life, their sensitiveness and reserve. Anything like the free and easy style adopted in this country would shock them beyond all account, and they would turn with disgust from any agent who should attempt to approach them in that manner. They desire to improve the condition of their poorer countrymen, and are, therefore, sliding emigration, although this is against the wishes of the Government. Emigration societies have been formed in various cities for the purpose of aiding and protecting those laborers who desire to seek homes and fortunes in another country. Several years ago when we were in the city of Mayence, on the Rhine, the "Deutscher Arbeiter Verein"—the German Labor's Association—was formed, and from that day to this it has assisted many thousands of poor people across the Atlantic. In Germany there are many societies of this kind, all doing a vast amount of good. A leading member of one of them wrote to us, enclosing the printed slip translated above, and asks to know the truth. He says they only want the proper guarantees to send thousands of families to the South, and speaks harshly of the agents sent out from the South, who are not only ignorant men, but persons unfitted for the position they occupy. Many instances of vulgarity are given as examples, and the writer truly says that such men get only the scum of Germany, the lowest and most worthless class, who, allured by promises of happiness without work, go to certain disappointment and disgust. Through the influence of one real gentleman, who knew the better people and could associate with the nobles, a constant flow of emigrants has been poured into the State of Missouri—seventy thousands within a few months.

This thing must be done for the South. It will not do to send out agents to pick up men or families haphazard there and then ship them, like cattle, across the Atlantic, for then the very worst and most worthless are produced. There must be a polished, well-bred gentleman, a diplomatist, and one who can command the respect of such gentlemen as those who now write us to know if these charges brought against the South are true.

It is certain that the reports now in circulation in Germany have had a tremendous effect upon the laboring people, and it is regarded almost certain death to come to the Southern States. And quite as bad is the belief that Germans are treated here like "Dutch niggers," and that the planters are invariably cruel and merciless. We are told that several hundreds who intended to settle in Texas, have been turned by these reports to St. Louis, and the country further North. It can be easily imagined that the agents from the North take particular pains to keep these reports in circulation, and that they lose no possibility to exaggerate the terrors of a Southern summer, already greatly dreaded by the peasantry.

If our "Emigration Bureau" is ever going to do anything now is the time. Gentlemen seem thickly and everything that can be made to tell against the South is used unscrupulously. These reports must be met and contradicted; these slanders must be refuted, or else we need expect no immigrants for the Southern fields. The paragraph given above, taken from an influential paper, will be read by nearly every journal in Europe, is sufficient for the further. It should be noted upon in case, and if any parties can be found guilty they should be held to strict account; if not, the Bureau should publish an official denial of the charges.

PROCLAMATION FROM THE GOVERNOR.—It was stated upon good authority yesterday, that Gov. Wells would issue a proclamation this morning, to the effect that all elections heretofore held must be in accordance with the requirements of the Military Reconstruction Bill which has just passed Congress. We even was able to procure a copy for publication in our paper, or materials for certain that the proclamation would be published this morning, though we have heard doubts that it will be found in some of the morning papers.

The Mayor of New London, Connecticut, has been fined for illegally selling liquor.

The New Orleans Bee.

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LOUISIANA LEGISLATURE.

TWENTY-EIGHTH DAY—MARCH 7, 1867.

SENATE.—The Senate met at noon, pursuant to adjournment, Lieutenant Governor Albert Voorhies presiding.

Prayer by the Rev. Dr. Leacock, of the Protestant Episcopal Church.

The journal of Wednesday's proceedings was read and approved.

Mr. Palfrey, from the Committee on Public Works, Lands and Levees, reported favorably on an act relative to the Lafourche City Canal Company.

Mr. Kenner reported favorably, with amendments, on House bills entitled an act to provide means necessary for the relief of the treasury of this State; an act supplementary to this act; and an act to legalize the notes and certificates issued by the city of New Orleans, known as "city notes," and to provide means for the redemption of the same.

On motion, these bills were taken up, and the two first named bills were, under a suspension of the rules, passed, with the proposed amendments, and sent back to the House for concurrence. We have already published these acts in full, when they first passed the House; the amendments made are nearly all verbal, and of minor importance.

The act to legalize the city notes was then taken up, and passed its first reading. On the second reading Mr. Davignaud stated that the committee appointed to investigate the affairs of the city of New Orleans and report what changes are necessary to provide for the better government of the same, would be ready to report to day (Friday). The committee had ascertained that the revenue of the city was over four millions of dollars, and in spite of this there would be a deficit of one million of dollars. The city government, if properly administered, ought to have ample means to redeem their issue of $5,700,000, but the funds have been shamefully squandered, as will more fully appear from the report of the committee. He would therefore move to postpone action on this bill for the present.

Mr. Kenner did not know how the affairs of the city had been administered. The report of the committee might affect the passage, but he would suggest that the bill pass its second reading. Some of the amendments would perhaps meet the approval of the committee.

The bill was then read by sections. On the reading of the second section Mr. Lapeyre remarked that it was useless to limit the city to a tax of one quarter of one per cent on gross sales, etc., for the City Council might increase the tax on licenses, as they had done this year. What they would not get one way they would take another.

The bill passed its second reading with some verbal amendments, and with the addition of a section providing for a fine of $40 for each offense against the sixth section of this bill, whether the offense be committed by the Mayor, Councilmen, or any other city official. The bill now lies over under the rules.

Mr. Taylor, from the Joint Committee, reported unfavorably on an act to enable the Board of Control to furnish laborers to build the Louisiana central item of the Mississippi and Pacific Railroad.

The same Senator, from the Committee on Prisons and Penitentiary, reported unfavorably on an act to provide for the administration of the State Penitentiary of Baton Rouge. The committee had no recommendation to make relative to the Penitentiary, except to ask for the usual appropriation.

Mr. Gibson, from the Select Committee on Levees, reported an act to authorize the Governor to issue Bonds of the State to the amount of three million of dollars, to defray the expense of building and repairing levees; an act to amend the levee districts, and provide for the appointment of a Board of Levee Commissioners, being supplementary to the above; an act to amend the second section of an act to authorize the Governor to issue Bonds to the amount of one million dollars, to pay levee contractors; and an act making appropriation to the Board of Levee Commissioners.

On motion of the same Senator, these bills were ordered printed, and made the special order of the day for Friday, March 15.

Mr. Welch, from the Committee on Parochial Affairs, reported favorably on an act to change the boundary line between the parishes of Union and Claiborne; on an act relative to Police Juries of the parish of Avoyelles favorably, with amendments; and favorably on an act to authorize Police Juries to levy a road tax.

A message from the House announced the concurrence in a joint resolution of thanks to Gen. Peabody. The resolution of thanks to the South, and concurrence was announced as requested in sundry other bills.

By Mr. Pitcher—An act to prevent the cutting of timber on the public lands, etc. Referred.

By Mr. Taylor—An act for the relief of J. McVay and Fred. M. Young. Referred.

On motion of Mr. Egan, House bills to amend Act 2260 and Act 2261 of the Civil Code, were referred to the Judiciary Committee.

The House bill relative to Sheriffs' sales, was laid on the table.

House bill to amend the 2d section of an act to incorporate the congregation of the Roman Catholic Church of St. Mary, in the parish of Lafourche—Concurred in.

By Mr. Brownlee—Joint resolution to establish the boundary line between the parishes of Jefferson and Orleans, right bank. Adopted finally.

The act relative to the Grange and New Iberia Railroad Company was taken up, and the House amendment concurred in.

An act for the relief J. Peebles was passed finally.

An act to repeal act 1698, of the Civil Code. Passed finally.

An act for the relief of P. T. Stevens was passed finally.

On motion of Mr. Foute, the action of the Senate on the act for the relief of State Tax Collector in certain case, was reconsidered, and the bill was laid over subject to call.

By Mr. Anderson—An act for the relief of Chas. H. Minton, appropriating $10,832 33, for services as Judge of the Eighth Judicial District, from October, 1865, to June, 1866, reported on favorably by the Committee on Claims.

Mr. Hough thought it was dangerous precedent to allow claims for official services rendered in Confederate times. The judge did not like Confederate money, did not draw his pay at the time, and now claimed pay in greenbacks or State money. Other claims might claim that the Confederate money, which they received, was no account, and so bring their claims before the Legislature.

Mr. Kavanagh took the same position, and moved to lay this bill on the table.

Mr. Wilcoxen thought that if the State owed a debt, the State ought to pay it, but would prefer to have this matter referred to a special committee of five.

After some further discussion, Mr. Wilcoxen's motion prevailed, and the chair appointed on the committee Messrs. Wilcoxen, Gray, Taylor, Campbell and Kavanagh.

Mr. Poole called up the House bill relative to judicial advertisements. Passed, finally.

A message from the House announced the passage, over the veto of the Governor, of an act to repeal an act to enable certain persons to build a steamboat canal from Vermillion Bay to the Sabine river, opposite Sabine, Texas.

On motion of Mr. Palfrey, this veto message was taken up.

Mr. Wilcoxen asked a postponement of action, desired this matter referred to a special committee, and thought that witnesses could be summoned that would make some startling disclosures.

Mr. Palfrey thought the matter had been sufficiently discussed.

The veto message was then made the special order of the day for to-day.

By Mr. Scruggs—Joint resolution authorizing the printing of 750 additional copies of the report of the State Superintendent.

Mr. Gibson thought this an unnecessary scheme; we had no public schools; the mill tax for their support was most urgent, and he intended to introduce a bill abolishing the whole system of public schools.

Mr. Scruggs' resolution was voted down, and the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—Met at 12 o'clock. Hon. T. S. Cage, Speaker, and 60 members present.

Prayer by the Rev. Dr. Palmer.

Reading of the Journal dispensed with.

Mr. Eliasberg, of Special Committee on Normal Schools, presented a memorial from the School Board. Referred to Committee on Education.

Mr. Green presented a resolution to provide for the selection of the most important bills from the calendar to have precedence till disposed of.

Mr. Nutt—Report of the Board of Supervisors of the Louisiana State Seminary. Referred to Committee on Education.

Mr. Montgomery, of Committee on Internal Improvements, reported favorably on the bill to enhance a breakwater above Alexandria, and variously on other bills.

Mr. Jones, of Finance Committee, reported favorably on the Senate bill to incorporate the New Orleans Lighterage and Wrecking Company; and also, reported a general appropriation bill for 1867.

Mr. Blackburn, of Militia Committee, reported on the act to organize the militia of the State, favorably.

Mr. Tete, of Committee on Parochial Affairs, reported.

Mr. Elam, of Judiciary Committee, reported on the substitute for the memorial and bill establishing a Charity Hospital in Shreveport, favorably; on the act to prevent persons from interfering so as to induce laborers or servants to abandon their contracts, &c., favorably by substitute; on the act relative to Parish Recorders, favorably with amendment; on an act to amend section second of an act entitled an act relative to appeals in cases of judgments, approved March 22d, 1843, favorably; on an act to amend an act entitled an act relative to judicial advertisements, approved March 18th, 1866, favorably; on an act to amend article five hundred and seventy-five of the Code of Practice, favorably by majority; on an act to amend an act entitled an act for the relief of the tax payers of the State, suspending the assessment and collection of State and Parish taxes for the years 1866, '65, '64, '63 and '64, until the first day of January, 1870, favorably; on an act to repeal an act entitled an act to change the venue, and make a homestead and other property, unfavorably; on an act to amend and re-enact the eighth and eleventh sections of an act entitled an act relative to District Courts for the Parish of Orleans, approved March 29th, 1865, favorably; on an act to amend and re-enact article 327 of the Civil Code, unfavorably, and an act for the relief of B. Dullapiane, the committee recommend that it be referred to the Committee on Claims, as presenting questions of fact and not of law. The report was received.

Mr. Fenner introduced a bill amending the act providing for the calling of a convention, so that while the qualified voters of the State under the present Constitution shall vote alone on the question of "convention" or "no convention," the delegates to said convention shall be elected by all persons qualified under the Military Reconstruction bill. The qualified voters of the State will thus have the opportunity of deciding for themselves whether or not they will take the preliminary steps necessary to meet the terms proposed by Congress. If elected, they will have a convention, if not, they are exempt from all responsibility. If they will be a majority to vote in the election of delegates to the convention, they will have a convention. If they will be a minority, they will have no convention. If the majority vote against the convention, they will have no trouble. If they vote for