tion of the House be allowed compensation for their services, and that the State contractor be required to furnish an itemized account of all purchases by the Sergeant-at-Arms at the end of each week with an affidavit of the correctness of the same.

SAVAGE, Chairman.

SPEAKER'S TABLE.
The Speaker laid before the House on its second reading, House bill No. 118, relating to the office of Secretary of State and requiring the Secretary of State to execute a bond.

The bill not being printed, Mr. Kennedy moved to suspend the operation of Rule 31, requiring that all bills reported favorably be printed and laid on the desk of each member before being acted on by the House, so that this bill might be taken up.

The motion to suspend was lost.

COMMITTEES ANNOUNCED.

EDUCATION.
Mr. Cole, Chairman; Messrs. Grubbs, Barrett, Sutherland, Nell, Collins, Terrell, Dies, Lillard, Livsey, McDowell, Russell, Savage, Shelburne, Thomas of Fannin, Marsh, Wooten, Dean, Little.

INSURANCE, STATISTICS AND HISTORY.
Mr. Kittrell, Chairman; Messrs. Mercer, Clements, Blount, Wheless, Evans of Grayson, Browne, Wooten, McKamy, Walton, Cross, Looney.

The following invitation was read to the House:

AUSTIN, TEXAS, Jan. 19, 1899.

Speaker J. S. Sherrill.

DEAR SIR: Thanking the Representatives for the use of the Hall, we extend to yourself, the members of the House and the employees, a cordial invitation to attend an entertainment at 7:30 o'clock this evening, given under the auspices of the Sons of the Confederacy and the U. D. C., Albert Sidney Johnston Chapter.

Respectfully,
Mrs. W. H. Tobin, Pres.
L. Shaver, Com.

On motion of Mr. Peery, the House, at 11:46 a. m., adjourned until 10 o'clock a. m. tomorrow.

TENTH DAY.

Hall of the House of Representatives, Austin, Texas, Friday, Jan. 20, 1899.

The House met at 10 o'clock a. m. pursuant to adjournment.

Speaker Sherrill in the chair.

Roll called and the following members present:

Adams. Maxwell.
Allen of Hopkins. McNally.
Ayers. McEachern.
Barbee. McDowell.
Barrett. McFarland.
Bean. McKamy.
Beaty. McKellar.
Bennett. Meitzen.
Blount. Meree.
Bolin. Monroe.
Bridgers. Morrow.
Brown. Murph.
Caldwell. Murray.
Calvin. Nell.
Chambers. Nolan.
Childers. Oliver.
Childs. Palmer.
Clements. Parish.
Cole. Pfeuffer.
Cross. Pitts.
Culp. Powell.
Dean. Prince.
Decker. Ratcliff.
Derden. Robertson, Harrison.
Dies. Robertson of Bell.
Dorrough. Roehne.
Eckols. Russell.
Ellis. Sansom.
Evans of Fannin. Savage.
Frost. Schluter.
Garner. Seury.
Garrett. Shannon.
Gill. Shelburne.
Goodlett. Shropshire.
Goodman. Smith of Grayson.
Gordon. Smith of Collin.
Graham. Staples.
Grogan. Stewart.
Grubbs. Stripling.
Hamilton. Tarkington.
Henderson, Brazos. Tarver.
Henderson, Lamar. Tate.
Howard. Teagle.
Harley. Terrell.
Jones. Thomas of Wise.
Kennedy. Thomas of Fannin.
Kittrell. Tucker.
Lake. Vaughan.
Lane. Walton.
Lillard. Wells.
Livsey. Wheless.
Looney. Willacy.
Loyd. Willrodt.
Marsh. Wright.
Masterson. Absent.

Absent—Excused.

Allen of Colorado. Peery.
Evans of Grayson. Rogers.
Greenwood. Absent.

Bailey. Cocke.
Prayer by Rev. W. J. Galin, Chaplain.

Pending reading of the Journal of yesterday, on motion of Mr. Vaughan further reading was dispensed with.

**GRANTED LEAVE OF ABSENCE.**

Mr. Crawford until Monday on account of important business, on motion of Mr. Tarver.

Mr. Poole for today on account of sickness, on motion of Mr. Phillips of Camp.

Mr. Allen of Colorado until Monday, on motion of Mr. Monroe.

Mr. Peery until Monday on account of important business, on motion of Mr. Browne.

**ADDITIONS TO COMMITTEES.**

Mr. Palmer to the Committee on Judicial Districts, on motion of Mr. Dies.

Mr. Looney to the Committee on Revenue and Taxation, on motion of Mr. Schlutter.

**SENATE MESSAGE.**

Hon. J. S. Sherrill, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker: I am directed by the Senate to inform the House that the Senate has passed the following resolutions:

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 6, providing for the printing of 300 copies of the Rules of the Senate and House.

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 7, providing for sines die adjournment of the Twenty-sixth Legislature on March 10, 1899, at 11:30 o'clock a.m.

J. P. Pool,
Secretary of the Senate.

**PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS.**

By Mr. Caldwell:

A petition from W. G. Grant and thirteen other citizens of Travis county, following the occupation of hucksters, asking to be reimbursed certain amounts paid to the State as occupation taxes.

Read first time, and referred to Committee on Revenue and Taxation.

**BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS.**

By Mr. Dierden:

House bill No. 169, A bill to be entitled "An Act to amend Article 325, Title V, Chapter 4, of the Code of Criminal Procedure, providing that in cases of felony when the accused is in custody of the sheriff or other peace officer the sheriff has, whether during the term of the court or in vacation, authority to take of the defendant a bail bond."

Read first time, and referred to Judiciary Committee No. 2.

By Mr. Browne:

House bill No. 170, A bill to be entitled "An Act to regulate the working of convicts; to prevent convicts from being hired to individuals and corporations, and to prevent their competition with free labor; to inhibit the State from competing with its citizens in the manufacture and sale of articles made, in whole or in part, by convicts; to utilize the labor of said convicts upon farms owned or leased by the State and to utilize convict labor in improving public highways."

Read first time, and referred to Committee on Penitentiaries.

By Mr. Walton and Mr. Murphy:

House bill No. 171, A bill to be entitled "An Act to amend Article 2406, of the Revised Civil Statutes of the State of Texas, relating to terms of commissioners' courts and limiting special terms of such courts."

Read first time, and referred to Committee on County Government and County Finances.

By Mr. Tarkington:

House bill No. 172, A bill to be entitled "An Act to amend Article 3259, of Title LVIII, of the Revised Civil Statutes of the State of Texas, relating to landlord and tenant, and to exempt from the landlord's lien a certain portion of the crop raised by the tenant."

Read first time, and referred to Committee on Agricultural Affairs.

By Mr. Shropshire:

House bill No. 173, A bill to be entitled "An Act to create a more efficient road system for Parker county, Texas, and making the county commissioners of said county ex-officio road commissioners, and providing for their compensation as road commissioners, and providing for the appointment of road overseers and defining their duties, and for the working of county convicts upon the roads of said county, and providing for officers' fees and rewards for the capture of escaped convicts, and authorizing the working of county convicts partly upon the county convict farm, as well as upon the public roads, or partly upon both, in the discretion of the commissioners court, and making provisions of act applicable, as far as practicable, to convicts when worked on county farms, and to provide for the summoning of teams for road work, and for an allowance of time of road ser-
vice for same and fixing a penalty for a violation of this act, and to repeal all laws in conflict with this act as to Parker county, and to authorize the commission of Parker county to create the office of Superintendent of Public Roads and Highways for Parker county, and to provide for the election of said superintendent, and defining his duties, and providing for compensation for said superintendent, when elected, and prescribing bond to be given by said officer; providing that delinquent poll tax-payers shall be subject to three days road duty; providing for the condemnation of any land needed for the widening, straightening, changing or draining of roads; providing for the taking of timber, gravel, earth, stone, or other necessary material for the improvement of roads, and giving persons summoned to work upon roads the right to be relieved from the discharge of such duty on the payment of specific sums of money herein stipulated.

Read first time, and referred to Committee on Roads, Bridges and Ferries.

By Mr. Wells:
House bill No. 174, A bill to be entitled "An Act to amend Article 5157 and Article 5159, Chapter 4, Title CIV, of the Revised Civil Statutes of Texas (1895), relating to the State and county bond and county tax collectors, and providing for a reduction of such State and county bond in such case to be one-third of the State and county tax respectively."
Read first time, and referred to Committee on Revenue and Taxation.

By Mr. Stewart:
House bill No. 175, A bill to be entitled "An Act to amend Article 2977, Chapter 4, Title LV, of the Revised Civil Statutes of the State of Texas, by adding thereto Article 2977a, and to amend Article 2992 of Chapter 4, Title LV, of the Revised Civil Statutes, relating to divorce, and to provide that the party guilty of wrong shall not marry after a divorce during the life time of the other."
Read first time, and referred to Judiciary Committee No. 1.

By Mr. Masterson:
House bill No. 176, A bill to be entitled "An Act to regulate the terms and fix the times for holding the District Court in the Twenty-third Judicial District of Texas, and to repeal all laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act."
Read first time, and referred to Judiciary Committee No. 1.

By Mr. Schluter:
House bill No. 177, A bill to be entitled "An Act to amend Article 2996, Title LVI, of the Revised Civil Statutes of the State of Texas, relating to writs of injunction, and providing to what courts such writs shall be returnable."
Read first time, and referred to Judiciary Committee No. 1.

By Mr. Smith of Grayson (by request):
House bill No. 178, A bill to be entitled "An Act to amend Articles 4305, 4309, 4310, 4311, 4314, 4316 and add Article 4316a, of Title XC, of the Revised Civil Statutes of Texas, relating to public weighers, and to provide for testing and stamping scales and balances of public weighers."
Read first time, and referred to Judiciary Committee No. 1.

By Mr. Staples:
House bill No. 179, A bill to be entitled "An Act to amend Article 4542, of the Revised Civil Statutes of the State of Texas, relating to passenger fare on all railroads in this State, and to prevent the collection of more than three cents per mile."
Read first time, and referred to Committee on State Affairs.

By Mr. Powell:
House bill No. 180, A bill to be entitled "An Act to amend Article 791a, Chapter 3, Title XVII, of the Penal Code of the State of Texas, relating to control of Johnson grass, and to prevent the moving of the seed or roots of such grass over or across any public road or highway."
Read first time, and referred to Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. Cole:
House bill No. 181, A bill to be entitled "An Act to amend Article 5049, of Chapter 1, Title CIV, of the Revised Civil Statutes of the State of Texas (1895), relating to occupation taxes, as amended by the Twenty-fifth Legislature, by adding subdivision 63, and to levy an occupation tax on the leasing or renting of cotton presses, compresses and gin machinery."
Read first time, and referred to Committee on Revenue and Taxation.

By Mr. Kittrell:
House bill No. 182, A bill to be entitled "An Act to amend Section 4, of Article 3050, of Chapter 2, of Title LVIII, of the Revised Civil Statutes of the State of Texas, pertaining to the basis of the calculation of the net value of insurance policies."
Read first time, and referred to Committee on Insurance, Statistics and History.

By Mr. Smith of Collin:
House bill No. 183, A bill to be entitled "An Act to amend Article 3897, Chapter 7, of the Revised Civil Statutes of Texas, relating to the apportionment of school
funds, and providing that all taxes paid by the white race for school purposes shall be used for the education of the white children, and all taxes paid by the colored race shall be used for the education of colored children, etc." Read first time, and referred to Committee on Education.

By Mr. Teagl:

House bill No. 184, A bill to be entitled "An Act to amend an act passed at the Regular Session of the Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Texas, known as Senate bill No. 230, Chapter 57, of the General Laws of the State of Texas, regulating the time of holding the District Court in Jasper, Newton, Orange, Jefferson and Tyler counties, so as to reduce the term in Newton and Tyler counties and extend the term in Jasper county." Read first time, and referred to Committee on Judicial Districts.

By Mr. Barbee:

House bill No. 185, A bill to be entitled "An Act to amend Articles 3328 and 3332, of Chapter 4, Title LXVI, of the Revised Civil Statutes of the State of Texas, relating to liens, and providing that chattel mortgages and deeds of trust shall be signed in duplicate, and requiring mortgagees and assignees to have same canceled within thirty days after their payment, and providing a penalty for failure to comply with the provisions of this act." Read first time, and referred to Judiciary Committee No. 2.

By Mr. Childers:

House bill No. 186, A bill to be entitled "An Act providing for the adoption of the Australian ballot system in the State of Texas." Read first time, and referred to Committee on Privileges and Elections.

By Mr. Lane:

House bill No. 187, A bill to be entitled "An Act to limit the powers of courts of county commissioners, so as to make it unlawful for said courts to make contracts to extend beyond, or to be performed after the expiration of the term of office of the members composing said courts, except contracts for the erection or construction of public buildings or other structures which may require a longer period for their construction, and for insurance of public property; and to repeal all laws in conflict therewith." Read first time, and referred to Judiciary Committee No. 1.

By Mr. Jones:

House bill No. 188, A bill to be entitled "An Act to amend Chapter 4, of Title CIV, of the Revised Civil Statutes of Texas, by adding thereto an article to be known as Article 5175b, providing for the collection of delinquent taxes, and to provide a penalty for a violation of its provisions." Read first time, and referred to Judiciary Committee No. 2.

By Mr. Culp:

House bill No. 189, A bill to be entitled "An Act to amend Articles 380, 388, Chapter 3, Title XI, of the Revised Penal Code of the State of Texas, relating to gaming." Read first time, and referred to Judiciary Committee No. 2.

By Mr. Willacy:

House bill No. 190, A bill to be entitled "An Act authorizing and directing the President and Board of Directors of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas to employ an expert entomologist, whose duty it shall be to devise means, if possible, of destroying the 'Mexican boll weevil,' and other pests, and to perform the duties of Professor of Entomology in the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas, and appropriating five thousand dollars for the purpose of carrying this act into effect." Read first time, and referred to Committee on Agricultural Affairs.

By Mr. Grubbs:

House bill No. 191, A bill to be entitled "An Act to amend Article 950 of the Revised Penal Code, and to prescribe penalties for the fraudulent removal and disposition of personal and movable property covered by mortgage, deed of trust or other lien." Read first time, and referred to Judiciary Committee No. 2.

By Mr. Grogan (by request):

House bill No. 192, A bill to be entitled "An Act to prescribe the qualifications of county judges in the counties of this State which have a voting population of four hundred or more." Read first time, and referred to Judiciary Committee No. 1.

By Mr. Meitzen:

House bill No. 193, A bill to be entitled "An Act to amend Chapter 1, Title IX, of the Revised Civil Statutes of the State of Texas, by adding thereto Article 128a, providing for the apprehension of lunatics." Read first time, and referred to Judiciary Committee No. 1.

By Mr. Smith of Grayson:

House bill No. 194, A bill to be entitled "An Act to amend the Penal Code of the State of Texas, by repealing Article 271, Chapter 6, Title VIII, of said Penal Code, in regard to sureties on bond of sheriff and other officers of a county."
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By Mr. Pitt:
House bill No. 195. A bill to be entitled “An Act to amend Article 5051, Chapter 1, Title CIV, of the Revised Civil Statutes of the State of Texas, in relation to the payment of occupation taxes, and to provide for quarterly payments thereof in advance.”
Read first time, and referred to Judiciary Committee No. 2.

By Mr. Savage:
House bill No. 196. A bill to be entitled “An Act to amend Article 3933, Chapter 11, Title LXXXVI, of the Revised Civil Statutes of the State of Texas, and to change the time of the election of school trustees from the first Saturday in June to the first Saturday in April, and to repeal all laws in conflict herewith.”
Read first time, and referred to Committee on Education.

By Mr. Scurry:
House bill No. 197. A bill to be entitled “An Act to give surviving partner or partners the right to manage and close up the partnership business, and to require the surviving partner or partners to file an inventory of the partnership property and to execute bond for the faithful performance of his duty.”
Read first time, and referred to Judiciary Committee No. 1.

By Mr. Masterson:
House bill No. 198. A bill to be entitled “An Act to require railway companies entering a city of ten thousand inhabitants or over to erect and maintain a union depot in such city for all of said companies in all cases where said companies have not heretofore erected separate depots of the value of over five thousand dollars, and to provide penalties for the failure of said companies to erect, maintain and use such depots.”
Read first time, and referred to Committee on Internal Improvements.

By Mr. Little:
House bill No. 199. A bill to be entitled “An Act to amend Articles 379, 380, and 381, of Chapter 3, Title XI, of the Penal Code of the State of Texas, relating to gaming, and to prohibit the playing of cards at any place not a private house.”
Read first time, and referred to Judiciary Committee No. 2.

By Mr. Schluter:
House bill No. 200. A bill to be entitled “An Act to repeal Chapter 153, of the Acts of the Twenty-fifth Legislature, page 219, passed May 21st, 1897, entitled ‘An Act to prohibit the taking of fish from the fresh water lakes and streams of this State otherwise than by the ordinary hook and line and trot line, and to prohibit the sale or shipping of game fish in the State, and to provide penalties for the violation thereof.’”
Read first time, and referred to Judiciary Committee No. 2.

By Mr. Grohse:
House bill No. 201. A bill to be entitled “An Act to amend Articles 3982 and 3983, of the Revised Civil Statutes of the State of Texas, relating to public education, and to regulate the transfer of children from one district or community to another.”
Read first time, and referred to Committee on Education.

By Mr. Masterson:
House bill No. 202. A bill to be entitled “An Act to regulate the buying of cotton in the seed and seed cotton, and to provide a penalty for violations of this act.”
Read first time, and referred to Judiciary Committee No. 2.

By Mr. Grogan:
House bill No. 203. A bill to be entitled “An Act to require all persons, firms, corporations, trustees and receivers operating railroads within the State of Texas to run two passenger trains daily in each direction on their respective roads, and to prescribe adequate penalties for failure to do so.”
Read first time, and referred to Judiciary Committee No. 2.

By Mr. Cross:
House bill No. 204. A bill to be entitled “An Act permitting any insurance company organized and doing business on the mutual plan, under the laws of any State of the United States, insuring against loss or damage resulting from burglary, robbery, or any attempt thereat, and also insuring against the loss of money and securities in transportation when shipped by registered mail, to do business in the State of Texas.”
Read first time, and referred to Committee on Insurance, Statistics and History.

By Mr. Grohse:
House bill No. 205. A bill to be entitled “An Act to amend Article 4310, of the Revised Civil Statutes, prescribing the duties of public weighers.”
Read first time, and referred to Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. Masterson:
House bill No. 206. A bill to be entitled “An Act to require every person, firm and corporation operating a cotton gin to keep a book showing the name of each person who has cotton at their gin, giving number of pounds or number of bales ginned, or there for the purpose of ginning; to require said book to be open to
By Mr. Jones:
House Joint Resolution No. 10, To amend Section 2, of Article 6, of the Constitution of the State of Texas, requiring persons of foreign birth who may be residents of the State of Texas on or before the 31st day of December, 1899, to declare their intention to become citizens of the United States six months before any election at which such persons may offer to vote, and requiring persons of foreign birth who shall immigrate to the State of Texas or who shall remove from any State or Territory of the United States to the State of Texas after the 31st day of December, 1899, to become citizens of the United States before they can vote at any election held in said State.

Read first time, and referred to Committee on Constitutional Amendments.

By Mr. Terrell:
House Joint Resolution No. 11, To amend Section 23, of Article 10, of the Constitution of the State of Texas, and to provide that all legal voters be allowed to vote in local stock law elections.

Read first time, and referred to Committee on Constitutional Amendments.

By Mr. Thomas of Fannin:
House Concurrent Resolution No. 9, Whereas, Several railroads in Texas have made oath and argument before the Federal Court that the railroads of Texas are reasonably worth an average of forty thousand dollars ($40,000.00) per mile, and Whereas, The railroads of Texas are now assessed for taxes at an average valuation of seven thousand six hundred and fifty dollars ($7650.00) per mile as shown by the last report of the Honorable Railroad Commission of Texas, and Whereas, Obedience to the text of this resolution will increase the State and county revenue of Texas six hundred thousand dollars ($600,000.00) annually, and

Whereas, This class of property is now assessed for taxes at only one-sixth of its value according to the sworn statement of its owners; therefore be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring, that in justice to the great mass of tax-payers of Texas, and in order to more nearly equalize taxation, the railroads of Texas should be assessed at the Railroad Commission's valuation at least, which is only seven-eighteenths of the valuation as sworn to by the railway companies.

Second—That a committee clerk, to be designated by the Speaker, be instructed to mail a copy of this resolution to every county tax assessor in Texas, and to every county judge in Texas, for the use of boards of equalization, together with a copy of the Railroad Commission's valuation on every road which has any mileage in the county of the tax assessor addressed.

Read second time and, on motion of Mr. Thomas of Fannin, referred to the Committee on Revenue and Taxation.

By Mr. McClellan:
Whereas, The Hon. S. P. Burns, a prominent and useful member of the Twenty-fifth Legislature, One Hundred and Eighth District, having died during his term of office, therefore be it

Resolved, That the Chair be requested to appoint a committee of his old associates of the Twenty-fifth Legislature (many of whom are members of the present Legislature) to prepare suitable resolutions upon his death, and present the same to the House for approval, and that a page of the Journal be set apart for said resolution.

Read second time and adopted unanimously by a rising vote.

In accordance with above resolution the Speaker appointed the following committee: Messrs. Barrett, Graham and Ayers.

By Mr. Grubbs:
Be it resolved, That the object of the State in the establishment and maintenance of public free schools, is the preparation and qualification of the children of both sexes to become personally independent and self-supporting, and that any system of public education which falls in the accomplishment of such object and purpose is inherently defective.

Resolved, That a necessity exists for the training of our young people of both sexes in the elementary principles of agriculture, mechanism and domestic economy and to this end provisions should be made for such training in the common schools.

Resolved, That industrial schools for boys and girls should be established in every portion of the State so far as practicable and that farmers institutes should be legalized and encouraged by the State in such counties and sections as may be deemed necessary and practicable for the general diffusion of agricultural and kindred sciences among the farming and industrial population of this State.

Read and, on motion of Mr. Conoly, referred to the Committee on Education.

By Mr. Maxwell:
Resolved, That each of the standing
committees of this House on State Asylums, Penitentiaries and Education, to which questions affecting said institutions are submitted, are hereby authorized to select a sub-committee, said sub-committee to consist of not less than two nor more than five members each, to visit each institution, said names to be submitted to the Speaker, and shall be appointed by him. The duty of each sub-committee designated, to examine as to the needs and conditions of said institutions, and to report back to the House of Representatives, in order that the House may know to what extent any appropriations shall be made for said institutions. Each member of said sub-committee shall receive in addition to his per diem, actual traveling expenses incurred.

Read second time, and on motion of Mr. Childs, referred to the Committee on State Asylums.

By Mr. Kittrell:

Resolved, That the Committee on State Affairs be and it is hereby directed to ascertain and report to this House the number of saloons in Texas, and the amount of revenue derived by the State therefrom; also to ascertain, if practicable, whether there are any houses or places in Texas wherein gambling at games forbidden by the Statute is carried on; and if so, what is the number of such places or houses, and where the same are situated? Also, to ascertain and report what relation or connection there is between such saloons and such gambling houses. Also, to report whether the laws regulating the conduct of saloons are or are not violated, habitually and continually, and if gambling houses are in operation in Texas, to report what officers are responsible for the existence and continuance of such violations of the laws; and what legislation, if any, is necessary to compel the performance by such officers of their sworn duties, and in event of their failure or refusal to perform their duties, what legislation is necessary to secure the punishment of such officers and their removal from office. Also, to report what the effect of saloons and gambling houses, if the latter be found to exist, is upon the political, social, moral and economic interests of the State, and whether, in the judgment of the said committee, it is desirable or practicable to suppress such saloons and gambling houses in the interest of good government, good morals, and social order.

Resolved further, That such committee be authorized to send for persons and papers, and to administer oaths, and be and hereby empowered to punish persons for contempt of its authority, and that the sum of five hundred ($500.00) dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, be and is hereby appropriated out of the contingent fund of this House to pay the expenses of such investigation and report.

Read, and on motion of Mr. Kittrell, tabled subject to call.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ANNOUNCED.

The Speaker announced the following committee, in accordance with resolution of Mr. Barbee, adopted yesterday: To visit the Confederate Home—Messrs. Barbee, Goodman, Looney, Tarkington and Barrett.

COMMITTEE REPORTS.

Committee Room.

Austin, Texas, Jan. 18, 1899.

Hon. J. S. Sherrill, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Sir: Your Committee on State Affairs, to whom was referred the following bills and resolution, have had the same under consideration, and I am instructed to report the same back to the House with the following recommendation:

That House bill No. 46, relating to general occupation taxes, do pass with the following amendments: Strike out "one thousand" wherever it occurs and insert in lieu thereof "two hundred and fifty," also strike out the emergency clause:

That House bill No. 67, relating to passenger fare and prohibiting free passes, do not pass:

That House bill No. 72, relating to abandonment of wives and children, be returned to the calendar and be referred to Judiciary Committee No. 2:

And that the resolution by Mr. Tarver, seeking to make an appropriation for the purpose of removing the remains of "Big Foot" Wallace to the State cemetery at Austin, be adopted, and that the clerk of this committee is authorized to make a typewritten copy of same and return to the House.

SHELBURNE, Chairman.

Committee Room.

Austin, Texas, January 19, 1899.

Hon. J. S. Sherrill, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Sir: Your Committee on Federal Relations, to whom was referred resolution by Mr. Schuler, introduced January 19th, 1899, memorializing the Texas members in the United States Congress to urge and demand an appropriation by said Congress to make Cypress river navigable, for the purpose of cheapening freight rates in that section of the State,
Have had the same under consideration, and I am instructed to report the same back to the House with the recommendation that it be adopted.

ALLEN of Hopkins, Chairman.

Committee Room,
Austin, Texas, January 19, 1899.

Hon. J. S. Sherrill, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Sir: Your Committee on Irrigation, to whom was referred House bill No. 109, being a bill to be entitled "An Act to prevent the diversion of the flow of water in streams from its natural channel, and fixing penalties for same," have had the same under consideration, and I am instructed to report the same back to the House with the recommendation that it do not pass.

MASTERSQN, Chairman.

Committee Room,
Austin, Texas, January 19, 1899.

Hon. J. S. Sherrill, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Sir: Your Committee on Rules, beg leave to submit the following report:

The following rules are recommended and submitted by the Committee on Rules for adoption by this, the Twenty-sixth Legislature, to-wit: The rules of the House of the Twenty-fifth Legislature, including the joint rules of the two Houses of Texas, with the following changes:

First. Rule 51, changed to read as follows: Any fifteen members (including the Speaker, if there be one), shall be authorized to compel the attendance of absent members. Upon a call of the House, whenever two-thirds of the members-elect (a constitutional quorum) shall be present, the call shall be considered suspended, and no member shall be permitted to leave the hall until after the subject matter upon which the call was ordered shall be disposed of, without permission of the Speaker, and immediately upon the House being declared full, it shall take up the business upon which the call was ordered.

Second. Rule 56, changed to read as follows: No member shall absent himself from the sittings of the House without leave, unless in case of sickness; and every member absenting himself without leave shall for each day of absence forfeit the pay allowed him by law, and if such absence is for the purpose of impeding the action of the House, such member shall be expelled; and the Speaker shall not sign the warrants of such absent members. It shall require a two-thirds vote of the members present to excuse absentees, and no member shall be excused upon his own motion.

Third. Rule 81 changed so as to read as follows: If, after due notification, the members of any Committee fail to meet at the time and place designated, the chairman of such committee may instruct the Sergeant-at-Arms to arrest and compel the attendance of unexcused absentees. And if it shall be evident that said absentees are willfully absent for the purpose of impeding the action of the committee, the chairman shall report such matter to the House, and such committee man shall be subject to the same penalty as if such absence was in the House.

We further recommend that after the House shall have adopted its rules, that the same be referred to the Committee on Public Printing, with instructions that said committee act in conjunction with the Senate committee and have 300 copies of said rules, including the Senate rules; all committees as appointed by the Speaker, and the Constitution of the State of Texas, printed and bound with index; that each member of the House and Senate be furnished a copy and the balance be placed in care of the Secretary of State for the use of the members-elect of the next Legislature. And we further suggest that the changes herein reported be printed in the Journal of the 20th inst., and that further action on this report be deferred until January 23rd.

POWELL, Acting Chairman.

On motion of Mr. Grubbs, the time fixed by the committee for consideration of this report was agreed to.

SPEAKER'S TABLE.

The Speaker laid before the House on its second reading, with amendment by committee:

House bill No. 118, relating to the office of Secretary of State and requiring the Secretary of State to execute a bond.

The bill was read second time and on motion of Mr. Kennedy the committee report was adopted.

Mr. Shelburne offered the following amendment:

Strike out the committee amendment and amend original bill by adding after the word "office" in line 28, "The Chief Clerk in the office of the Secretary of State shall, within twenty days after he has received notice of his appointment, and before he enters upon the duties of his office, give a bond in the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars with not less than six good sureties. Said bond to contain the same conditions and limi-
tations as that required of the Secretary of State.

Mr. Jones offered the following amendment to the amendment by Mr. Shelnburne:

Amend the amendment by inserting after the word “dollars” in line 19, the following: “in any security company authorized to do business in this State, or.”

Tabled on motion of Mr. Pitts.

Mr. Powell moved that further consideration of the bill be postponed until next Monday at 11 a.m., and that it be made a special order for that hour.

On motion of Mr. Monroe, the bill was recommitted to the Committee on State Affairs.

The Speaker laid before the House, on its second reading.

House bill No. 108. A bill to be entitled “An Act to amend Title IV, Chapter 2, of the Code of Criminal Procedure relating to the unlawful disposing of mortgaged property and more particularly fixing the venire of such cases.”

The bill was read second time and Mr. Lillard offered the following amendment:

Change the word “where” in line 12, to “when.”

Adopted.

Mr. Ayers offered the following amendments:

Amend by striking out the word “recorded” in line 16, and inserting in lieu thereof the word “registered.”

Adopted.

Amend by inserting the word “personal” after the word “mortgaged” in line 12, and before the word “property” in line 14.

Tabled on motion of Mr. Jones.

Mr. Grubbs offered the following amendment:

Amend by striking out in line 16, all after the word “it” and insert “was registered at the time of the commission of such offense.”

Mr. Powell offered the following amendment to the amendment:

Amend by adding to line 16, the words “at the time of the disposal.”

On motion of Mr. Conoly, both above amendments were tabled.

Mr. Henderson of Brazos offered the following amendment:

Amend the bill by adding after the word “registered,” line 16, the words “or where the mortgage was executed.”

Tabled on motion of Mr. Collins.

Mr. Collins moved the previous question and the main question was ordered.

The bill was ordered engrossed.

BRYAN ACCEPTS INVITATION.

Mr. Wheless, Chairman on part of the House, submitted the following report:

To the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Your committees appointed in accordance with concurrent resolution to invite Hon. William J. Bryan to address the Legislature have extended the invitation, and in reply have received the following telegram:

“LINCOLN, Jan. 19th, 1899.

“Senator Potter or Representative Wheless, Austin, Texas.

“I am grateful to Legislature for honor done me. Shall accept invitation, but date of visit still uncertain.

“WILLIAM J. BRYAN.”

Respectfully submitted,

POTTER,
TERRELL,
MILLER.
Committee from Senate.

WHELESS,
ELLIS,
BOLIN.
Committee from House.

On motion of Mr. Tarver, the House, at 12 o’clock m., adjourned until 10 o’clock a.m. tomorrow.

ELEVENTH DAY.

Hall of the House of Representatives, Saturday, Jan. 21, 1899.

The House met at 10 o’clock a.m. pursuant to adjournment.

Speaker Sherrill in the chair.

Roll called and the following members present: