HOUSE JOURNAL.

FIRST DAY.

House of Representatives, } Austin, April 16, 1887, } In obedience to the proclamation of His Excellency, L. S. Ross, Governor of Texas, bearing date 31st of March, A. D., 1888, convening the Twentieth Legislature, in special session, at Austin, the Capital of the State, on this, the 16th day of April, 1888, the House of Representatives was called to order at 12 o'clock m. by the Speaker, Hon. Geo. C. Pendleton.

Roll being called, the following members were Present—86.

Present—86.

Alexander
Baird
Baylor
Bell of Cooke
Bell of Denton
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Chapman
Christenberry
Clark of Red River
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Langford
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McGehee
McKinney
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mical administration of the government; and near completion of the State Capitol building requires that it should be inspected by the representatives of the people with a view to its accept ance or rejection, and if accepted the proper provisions made for its occupancy; and there is an imperative public necessity for the amendment of the tax laws, so that if found practicable the burden of taxation may be lightened from the people; and as the State is indebted for services of school teachers of the public schools, to an extent which greatly impairs their usefulness, and which requires such amendment of the school law as may most contribute to the effectiveness of our system of public education; and Congress has now before it an act looking to the permanent settlement of the disputed claim of our State to Greer county, which if it becomes a law, will necessitate prompt legislative action, and these several matters are of such grave importance and general interest as to create an emergency necessitating the convening of the Twentieth Legislature in special session;

Now, therefore, I, L. S. Ross, Governor of Texas, do hereby issue this proclamation convening the Twentieth Legislature to meet in their respective halls, in the City of Austin, on Monday, the 16th day of April, A. D. 1888, in special session, and do hereby designate the following as subjects of legislation, to wit:

1. To provide for the proper distribution of the surplus moneys now in the treasury by necessary appropriations.
2. To inspect and make such provision for furnishing and preserving the new capitol as may be deemed proper, for putting the capitol grounds in condition, and to determine what disposition shall be made of other State property at the seat of government.
3. To make such changes in the laws relating to taxation and revenue as may seem most consonant with the interests of the people, with the view of a more uniform and just assessment and certain collection; and a consideration of the advisability of reducing the present tax rate.
4. To make such alteration in the present law regarding the public education of the youth of our state as may be found necessary, and appropriations to pay any indebtedness that may have accrued by reason thereof; to make appropriations for our various charitable institutions requisite to their more extended usefulness and betterment; and for a geological survey of the State, if demanded by general public interest.
5. To make such changes in subdivision 24 of article 566, Revised Statutes, as amended by act of March 23, A. D. 1887, as may be deemed wise and expedient to meet the increased demands of the agricultural interest of the State.

6. To make such provision as may be necessary for co-operation with the United States government in the settlement of the boundary of that portion of the State embracing Greer county.

Done at the Executive Office, in the City of Austin, this the 1st day of March, A. D. 1888, and in the year of our independence the fifty-third.

L. S. Ross,
Governor of Texas.

By the Governor:
J. M. Moore,
Secretary of State.

THE SPEAKER

Laid before the House the following communication from Geo. W. Finger, tendering his resignation as Reading Clerk of the Twentieth Legislature:

Fort Worth, April 13, 1888.
Hon. Geo. C. Pendleton, Speaker House of Representatives:

Dear Sir—I hereby tender my resignation as Reading Clerk, House of Representatives, of the Twentieth Legislature.

Very respectfully,
Geo. W. Finger.

MR. MCGAUGHEY

Moved to accept the resignation of Mr. Finger.

MR. CAMP

Offered the following resolution as a substitute for the motion of Mr. McGaughy:

Resolved, That the vacancies caused by the death and resignation of some of the officers of the House be now filled by elections.

The resolution was read.

And

Adopted.

Nominations for Reading Clerk being in order,