

GEORGE Q. CANNON,
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Saturday - February 1, 1870.

THE TWENTY-THIRD SESSION.

The twenty-third session of the Legislative Assembly closed satisfactorily before noon to-day; the session having continued from seven o'clock last evening. A great deal of hard work has been done, and some good bills have been passed, most of which have been signed by the Governor and will become part of the established laws of the Territory as soon as published. Following are the bills which have received the executive sanction:

Council File No. 4, Amending titles 21 and 22 of the Compiled Laws. This act places certain crimes within the jurisdiction of Justices of the Peace and rectifies the evils arising from the rulings of the courts on the penal code, which took a number of petty offences from the Justice's jurisdiction and placed them under that of the District Courts.

C. F. 5. Amending 1800, 1812 and 1750 Compiled Laws. This makes some necessary corrections in the civil practice act.

C. F. 6. Amending the charters of incorporated cities, etc., to extend the powers of city Justices to correspond with that of the plighted Justices and provide for the management of certain property for municipal purposes.

C. F. 11. Criminal procedure. A comprehensive measure relating to the mode of action in criminal cases.

C. F. 13. In relation to Local Elections. This Act makes provision for elections to fill vacancies which may occur between the general elections.

C. F. 22. Changing the name of certain persons from Littleton to Rigby.

C. F. 23. Reducing the boundaries of Washington City and changing its charter.

C. F. 24. For the payment of game fees.

C. F. 25. Changing the names of certain persons from Folsom to Bolton.

C. F. 31. Supplemental Irrigation Act on Incorporation of Cities for Religious Purposes. This extends the provision of the Act to incorporation for social, religious, scientific, literary and benevolent purposes, and defines their powers and responsibilities.

House File No. 2. To amend Sections 1151 and 1154 of Statute in relation to Divorce. This repeals the obnoxious section of the 1869 Act, which made it impossible for non-residents to obtain divorce in this Territory. It provides that none but residents for a year can file a suit, and that a wife may obtain a divorce for the following causes: Impotency at time of marriage; adultery subsequent to marriage; wilful desertion for more than one year; "wilful neglect of defendant to provide for his wife the common necessaries of life"; habitual drunkenness; conviction for felony; cruel treatment. The section left unamended in the original law provides that "the husband may in all cases obtain a divorce from his wife for the same reasons in the same manner as there is a certain divorce from her husband."

H. F. 15. To approve of the Compiled Laws of Utah. This collects the labor of the committee appointed to compile the laws in the previous session.

H. F. 18. Revenue Bills. Considerable controversy arose in this bill, the Governor objecting to certain provisions. Finally a compromise was effected and the bill was signed with a few amendments, the most important of which was the exemption from taxation mining claims, their products and the like therein. Patented mines or claims are subject to taxation. A tax of three mills on the dollar, assessed and collected with general taxes, is required by this law. For school purposes in the place of the one-fourth of one per cent, which was formerly assessed by the state, the amount of the tax will be reduced to one-half.

H. F. 24. Changing the County seat of Piute County.

H. F. 25. Providing for the giving of records books and papers to the District Courts.

H. F. 35. Amending the Act in relation to proving records and rules.

H. F. 42. For the equalization of taxes on statutory lands. This defines the relative rights of counties in taxing stocks removed from one county to another.

H. F. 45. Reducing the boundaries and amending the charters of Springville City.

H. F. 46. Amending the laws relating to fish.

H. F. 48. Appropriation bill. The Assembly has done a good work. Several bills introduced by either House failed to pass in the other, and other bills were either vetoed or remained with a signature of the Governor's signature, etc., which is unusual to say, there is no remedy in the Territory. The general feeling of the Assembly towards the Governor is that he has done well enough.

Men make allowances for the difference between his sentiments and theirs, and the pressure brought to bear upon him by influence hostile to the Legislature and the general public here.

The greatest difficulty in our legislative affairs is the lack of time. Forty days is too short a period in which to prepare and enact laws for this growing section of the country. Either a committee should be appointed by the Legislature to prepare bills before it convenes, or there should be a preliminary unicongressional session, when bills could be framed and changes discussed, so that when the legal session commenced business might be attended to without hindrance and without that haste which always characterizes its deliberations towards the close.

We congratulate the legislators upon their efficient labor and the Territory upon having a body of men to represent its interests who work so faithfully and unremittingly for the general welfare.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

COUNCIL.

EVENING SESSION.

February 21st.

A communication was received from the Governor returning C. F. No. 10 an act extending city charters, with suggestions for certain amendments, adopted and carried till 11 P.M.

Mr. Cannon reported H. F. 45, "amending the charter, etc., of Washington City."

A message was received from the House announcing the appointment of a committee to consider section 8 of the election bill; recommendation of C. F. 15, "jury and witness fund." The postponement was concurred in.

C. F. 15, "jury and witness fund," was taken up and the amendments concurred in.

A communication from the Governor announced his approval of C. F. 20, "amending the charter, etc., of Washington City."

A message was received from the House announcing the passage of H. F. 46, "amending sections 388 and 389 of the Compiled Laws of Utah."

C. F. 15, "jury and witness fund," was adopted and carried.

A communication from the Governor announced his approval of H. F. 45, "amending the election bill, etc."

C. F. 15, "jury and witness fund," was adopted and carried.

A communication from the Governor announced his approval of H. F. 46, "amending sections 388 and 389 of the Compiled Laws of Utah."

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