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VOL. X.

South Carolina Secession Convention.

THIRD DAY.

On calling the roll it was ascertained that 160 members were present. A prayer was made by Rev. Dr. Curtis.

The President submitted a letter from A. Huger, postmaster of Charleston, offering a messenger to facilitate the delivery of the mail matter from the members of the convention.

The President also read a letter from Hon. John A. Elmore, commissioner for Alabama, inclosing a telegraphic dispatch from Governor Moore, dated Montgomery, Dec. 17. It was as follows:

"To Hon. JOHN A. ELMORE:—Tell the convention to listen to no proposition for compromise or delay."

This dispatch was greeted with loud applause, and subsequently was referred to the committee to prepare an address to the people of the southern States.

Mr. Keitt has tendered his resignation to Governor Pickens.

The committee on commerce and postal arrangements was increased to 13.

The convention adopted a resolution that a committee in relation to the slaveholding States of North America, be appointed.

The third resolution of the committee on commercial relations and postal arrangements was taken up.

Mr. McCready said: We only propose to make a change for the people, while in a transition state. We must take special care of the postal arrangements. Our legislature now has no power. We are the power. Let us pass it, subject to their revision and alteration. You are not to break upon arrangements which are necessary to the convenience of our citizens and those of other States. I think the convention is bound to make arrangements with the post office department.—The mails can be carried as usual, and we will pay the contractors.

Mr. Dunkin addressed the convention in relation to the postal arrangements of the State.

Mr. Gregg—We can dissolve our union with the United States, and make arrangements for a continuance of the mail service.

Mr. Adams—This debate is out of order.

Mr. Gregg—The Minister to the United States will have the matter in charge.

The amendment of adding "postal arrangements," for the consideration of the committee on commerce, was adopted.

The fourth resolution was then adopted.

The special order, the second resolution, relative to the secession portion of the message of the President of the United States, was taken up.

Speeches were made by Messrs. Magrath, Miles, Memminger, and others. Mr. Miles said: I have not the least idea that the President of the United States will send reinforcements here. In a conversation, and subsequently in a written communication, I know this to have been said to him: "If you send a solitary soldier to those forts, the instant the intelligence reaches our people—and we will take care it does reach us in good season—the forts will be taken, because they are necessary to our self-preservation. Mr. Miles spoke about the repairs to Fort Sumpter, and mentioned the cause of the resignation of Secretary Cass. At Fort Moultrie, there were only sixty-five men, with five or six musicians. Captain Anderson is needless of troops. He (Miles) felt the necessity of being watchful, lest a few persons from Charleston should surprise the fort in a night. Let us wait a while, as all the repairs will be to our advantage.

The blank in the resolution appointing this committee was, on motion of Mr. Harlee, filled with thirteen.

The resolution was then adopted.

Mr. Deterville introduced a resolution for a committee of safety. Transferred for a special order for to-morrow.

Mr. Memminger introduced a resolution, which was adopted, for the appointment of a committee of seven members, to draft a summary statement of the causes justifying South Carolina in withdrawing from the Union. He said at another time we can present to the whole world the causes justifying South Carolina leaving the Union. He desired it so that it would dispel the idea that South Carolina is in a state of revolution. We are, as a State, already recognized by the world. In order to set ourselves right before the world, it is expedient to show our true position.

Mr. Dunkin offered a resolution that a committee be appointed to inquire and report what measures, temporary or permanent, can be adopted, in reference to custom house and postal arrangements, in consequence of the withdrawal of South Carolina from the Union.

Several important resolutions were referred to the appropriate committees. One provided for the appointment of a commissioner to each of the slaveholding States, bearing a copy of the ordinance of secession, a second for the appointment of three commissioners to Washington; a third for the appointment of five

commissioners to meet commissioners from other slaveholding States.

FOURTH DAY.

Dec. 20.—Prayer was offered, the roll called, and the journal read.

The Chair announced the appointment of the committee to draft a summary of the cause of the secession of South Carolina; also of four standing committees.

Mr. Rhett's resolution to appoint a committee of thirteen for the purpose of providing for a convention of the seceding States, and to form a constitution, was adopted.

Mr. Inglis made a report from the committee to prepare and draft an ordinance proper to be adopted by the convention.

AN ORDINANCE to dissolve the union between the State of South Carolina, and other States united with her under the compact entitled the Constitution of the United States of America.

We, the people of the State of South Carolina, in convention assembled, do declare and ordain, and it is hereby declared and ordained, that the ordinance adopted by us, in convention, on the 23d day of May in the year of our Lord, 1788, whereby the Constitution of the United States of America was ratified, and also all acts and parts of acts of the General Assembly of this State ratifying amendments of the said Constitution, are hereby repealed, and that the union now subsisting between South Carolina and other States, under the name of the United States of America, is hereby dissolved.

The ordinance was taken up and passed by a unanimous vote of 160 members at 15 minutes past 1 o'clock.

As soon as its passage was known without the doors of the Convention, it rapidly spread on the street, a crowd collected, and there was immense cheering.

Mr. Miles moved that the clerk telegraph to the members at Washington. Carried unanimously.

Mr. Desaussure moved that the ordinance be engrossed on parchment, under the direction of the Attorney-General, and signed by the President and members this evening at Institute Hall, and that it be placed in the archives of the State.

Half-past 6 o'clock was agreed upon as the hour to proceed to Institute Hall for the purpose of signing it.

At 3:40 p.m., the Convention took a recess, to meet at Institute Hall at 6½ o'clock, for the purpose of signing the ordinance.

FIFTH DAY.

Dec. 21.—Prayer was offered, invoking God's blessing on the new-born confederacy.

Mr. Rhett reported from the committee appointed to prepare an address to the southern people. Mr. Rhett read the report on the request of the President.

After being read, Mr. Pope moved that an address be not reported until final action was taken.

Mr. Carn moved that it be printed and made the special order for to-morrow at 1 o'clock, which was carried unanimously.

Mr. Wardlaw, from the committee appointed to prepare an oath of office for the fourth article of the South Carolina Constitution, reported as follows:

All persons who shall be elected or appointed to any office of profit or trust, before entering into the execution thereof, shall take, besides special oaths not repugnant to this Constitution prescribed by the General Assembly, the following oath:

I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will bear faithful and true allegiance to South Carolina, so long as I may continue a citizen thereof, and that I am duly qualified, according to the Constitution of this State, to exercise the office to which I have been appointed, and will, to the best of my ability, discharge the duty of the office, and preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of this State, so help me God."

Mr. Wardlaw moved its adoption.

A debate ensued on inserting "high" before "office," and omitting it at the end of "State."

The ordinance was adopted unanimously.

On motion of ex-Governor Adams, the convention went into secret session.

Three ballots were taken for commissioner to Washington. Ex-Senator R. W. Barnwell, ex-Speaker James L. Orr, and ex-Governor J. H. Adams were chosen.

SIXTH DAY.

Dec. 22.—Several reports were received and referred.

Mr. Magrath, from the committee on such portions of the President's message as refers to the property of the United States in the limits of South Carolina, said that he preferred making his report in secret session. The convention then went into secret session, and continued so for two hours. It is reported that a very animated discussion took place on the report.

Mr. C. D. Melton, appointed to prepare the credentials for the joint commission to Washington, was sworn to keep the strictest secrecy in regard to them. The accredited papers were delivered to the commissioners to-day, who go to Washington with full powers.—The commissioners took a secretary with them who was allowed ten dollars a day and his traveling expenses.

The convention adjourned to Monday.

SEVENTH DAY.

Dec. 24.—After prayer, a resolution was adopted, inviting Governor Perry, of Florida, then in the city, to a seat on the floor of the convention.

Mr. Magrath introduced an ordinance, that the judges of the courts take cognizance in cases in admiralty and maritime jurisdiction for all offences, as under the laws of the United States, hereafter. Referred to the committee on a Constitution, with Judge Magrath added.

Mr. Rhett moved to take up the address to the people of the southern States, as prepared by the committee. It was taken up, and several amendments proposed.

The declaration of causes which justify the secession of South Carolina from the Federal Union, was made a special order. The whole address received innumerable alterations. After a lengthy and not generally interesting debate, the convention took a recess till 7 o'clock.

EVENING SESSION.—Mr. Dunkin moved to take up the special order, it being the ordinance to provide for a continuance of commercial affairs. He moved for a secret session, which was carried.

EIGHTH DAY.

Dec. 25.—After prayer, the President read a communication from Governor Perry, of Florida, returning thanks for the invitation to a seat in the convention, and giving assurances that his State will certainly follow the example of South Carolina.

Mr. Finley offered a resolution, that copies of the ordinance of secession adopted by the convention, with the declaration of immediate causes which have induced and justified the secession of Carolina from the federal Union, and the addresses of the people of South Carolina, in convention assembled, to the slaveholding States of the United States, be transmitted by the governor of the State to the governors of the slaveholding States, for the information of their respective legislatures, or conventions where conventions of the people have been called in any of the slaveholding States. Several amendments were offered, one of which was, that the documents should be transmitted to all the States, upon which, a spirited discussion arose; but the amendments were rejected, and the original resolution was adopted.

The convention then went into secret session, in reference to the customs.

NINTH DAY.

Dec. 26.—A prayer was offered up asking the protection of God over a Southern confederacy.

Mr. Spain offered a resolution that the governor be requested to communicate to the convention in secret session any information he possesses in reference to the condition of forts Moultrie, and Sumpter and Castle Pinckney, the number of guns to each, the number of workmen and kind of labor employed, the number of soldiers in each, and what additions, if any, have been made since the 20th instant; also whether any assurance has been given that the forts will not be reinforced, and if so, to what extent; also what police or other regulations have been made, if any, in reference to the defenses of the harbor of Charleston, the coast and the State. Laid on the table for consideration in secret session.

Mr. Brown offered a resolution that all citizens of the United States domiciled within this State, on the adoption of the ordinance of secession on December 20, 1860, be, and the same are hereby declared citizens of South Carolina, entitled to all the privileges and subject to all the liabilities incident thereto.

A lengthy discussion arose, but no action on the resolution is reported to have been taken.

Mr. Rhett offered an ordinance providing for the holding of a convention of the slaveholding States of the United States for the purpose of framing a constitution and forming a southern confederacy. It provides as follows:

First, That the conventions of the seceding slaveholding States of the United States unite with South Carolina and hold a convention at Montgomery, Ala., for the purpose of forming a southern confederacy.

Second, That the said seceding States appoint by their respective conventions or legislatures as many delegates as they have representatives in the present Congress of the United States, to the said convention, to be held at Montgomery, and that on the adoption of the constitution of the southern confederacy the vote shall be by States.

Third, That whenever the forms of the Constitution shall be agreed upon by the said convention, the same shall be submitted, at an

early a day as practicable, to the convention and legislature of each State, respectively, so as to enable them to ratify or reject the said Constitution.

Fourth, That, in the opinion of South Carolina, the Constitution of the United States will form a suitable basis for the confederacy of the southern States withdrawing.

Fifth, That the South Carolina convention appoint by ballot eight delegates to represent South Carolina in the convention for the formation of a southern confederacy.

Lastly, That one Commissioner in each State be elected to call the attention of the people to this ordinance.

The convention then went into secret session, and passed the following ordinance, which was immediately made public, the obligation of secrecy having been withdrawn.

AN ORDINANCE to make provisional arrangements for the continuance of the commercial facilities of South Carolina.

Whereas, It is due to our late confederates in the political union, known as the United States of America, as also the citizens of South Carolina engaged in commerce, that no abrupt or sudden change be made in the rate of duties on imports into the State; and whereas, it is not desired by this State to secure advantages in trade to her own ports above those of any of the slaveholding States, her late confederates in the said Union; and whereas, this ordinance, for considerations indicated, is designed to be provisional merely; therefore,

We, the people of South Carolina, in convention assembled, do declare, ordain, and it is hereby declared and ordained—

First, That all citizens of this State, who, at the date of the ordinance of secession, were holding office connected with the customs, under the general government of the United States, within the limits of South Carolina, be and they are hereby appointed to hold, under the government of this State exclusively, without any further connection whatever with the federal government of the United States, the same offices they now fill, until otherwise directed, and that they receive the same pay and emoluments for their services.

Second, That until this convention, or general assembly, shall otherwise provide, shall appoint to all vacancies which may occur in such offices.

Third, That until it is otherwise provided by this convention or the general assembly, the revenue collection and navigation laws of the United States, so far as may be practicable, be, and they are adopted and made laws of this State, saving that no duties shall be collected upon imports from the States forming the late federal Union, known as the United States of America, nor upon the tonnage of vessels owned in whole or in part, by the citizens of said States, saving and excepting the act of Congress adopted on the third day of March, 1857, entitled "an act authorizing the deposit of the papers of foreign vessels with the consuls of their respective nations, which said act is hereby declared to be of no force within the limits of this State.

Fourth, All vessels built in South Carolina, or elsewhere, and owned to the amount of one third by a citizen or citizens of South Carolina, or any of the slaveholding commonwealths of North America, and commanded by citizens thereof, and no other shall be registered as vessels of South Carolina; under the authority of the collector and naval officer.

Fifth, All official acts of the officers aforesaid, in which it is usual and proper to set forth the authority under which they act, or style of documents issued by those or any of them, be in the name of the State of South Carolina.

Sixth, All moneys hereafter collected by any officers aforesaid, shall, after deducting the sums necessary for the compensation of the officers and other expenses, be paid into the treasury of the State of South Carolina, for the use of said State, subject to the order of this convention or of the general assembly.

Seventh, The officers aforesaid shall retain in their hands all property of the United States in their possession, custody or control, subject to the disposal of the State, who will account for the same upon a final settlement with the government of the United States.

Done at Charleston, 26th day of December, year of our Lord, 1860.

(Signed) D. F. JAMISON,
President.

Attest, B. F. ARTHUR, Clerk.

TENTH DAY.

Dec. 27.—The President announced the reason why yesterday's ordinance was not printed in the journal.

Mr. Middleton here moved that the convention go into secret session immediately.

Mr. DeTreville tried to get in a resolution declaring that the Governor of South Carolina be authorized and requested to take possession of fort Moultrie, when he was interrupted by the demand that the motion to go into secret session had the precedence.