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In his opinion, Mr. McLean had used nothing but assertion. He, for one, was not willing to give any paper 5 cents a copy when he could get another for 3 cents.

MR. ROBERTSON, of Bell, said he did not propose to take part in the discussion on either side, but merely wished to submit a few practical remarks. Subscription for twenty papers, with postage added, would cost \$7,000. If the proposition to subscribe for papers should be voted down, he thought the best plan would be to employ a stenographer, which would not amount to one-seventh of the expense.

(Mr. John Henry Brown in the chair.)

THE PRESIDENT *pro tem* said the question was should the substitute of the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. McCormick) authorizing subscriptions for twenty copies of any daily papers, which the delegates might select, at a cost not to exceed 3 cents, prevail.

The substitute was lost.

THE PRESIDENT *pro tem* then said that the question recurred on the motion of the gentleman from Navarro (Mr. Marion Martin) to indefinitely postpone the whole subject.

MR. McLEAN asked if it was the opinion of the Chair that if the pending motion prevailed it would dispose of the question for the whole of the session.

THE PRESIDENT *pro tem* remarked that he had some doubts on the subject.

MR. STOCKDALE said that it would lose the question as he understood it.

The yeas and nays were called for and the whole question was indefinitely postponed by a vote of 48 yeas to 35 nays.

SIXTH DAY

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1875¹⁰

The Printing Question

MR. W. L. CRAWFORD, of Marion, moved the following:

Resolved, That the special committee on printing be required to report a resolution authorizing the President to receive sealed pro-

¹⁰The proceedings for this day were taken from the *State Gazette* (Austin),
*September 12, 1875.

posals at his desk, for three days after the report of said resolution, for the printing of the body, and that at the expiration of said time to open proposals, and thereupon, by the consent of this Convention, to award said printing to the lowest responsible bidder.

It was referred to the Committee on Printing.

MR STOCKDALE moved to amend by striking out the words "the special committee on printing be authorized to report" and insert "the President be authorized."

MR. CRAWFORD offered the following as a substitute for his resolution and the amendment:

Resolved, That the President of this Convention be authorized to receive sealed proposals at his desk for the printing of this body until Monday, the 13th inst., at 12 o'clock, at which time he shall open the same and award the said printing, by the consent of this Convention, to the lowest responsible bidder.

(Mr. Dohoney in the chair.)

MR. DEMORSE, of the Committee on Printing, called attention of delegates to the fact that there was a regular Committee on Printing, which seemed to be ignored in the resolution proposed. The printing of the rules and committees had been left in the hands of the Clerk. The proposition to take this question out of the hands of the committee looked, to say the least, a little discourteous, but if the proposal to do so would leave the committee without further duty and the Convention could resolve itself into a printing committee, he had no objection. It would be well, however, for the Convention to decide whether or not the committee had further duties to perform. If not, they had a sufficiency of other duties to attend to.

MR. STOCKDALE moved to refer the whole matter of printing again to the Committee on Printing.

MR. PICKETT advocated the same course.

MR. N. H. DARNELL, of Tarrant, said that he would be very happy to be relieved as a member of the committee. It had delicate questions to deal with, and he would rather serve on any other committee. The committee had been trying to do its best, and was unwilling to make an incomplete report, which could result only in ill-feeling and criticism. He did not believe the Convention desired

to throw any aspersions on the committee or its chairman, for both had done their best.

MR. McCORMICK said his colleagues appeared to be afraid of newspaper criticism. After being in session six days the rules of the Convention had not yet been printed. Why such delay? He was the friend of no paper in particular, but wanted the printing done at the lowest price. The resolution took the responsibility away from the committee, who seemed to be afraid.

MR. DEMORSE said the Secretary had charge of the printing already ordered, and that the committee was willing to share all due responsibility of the Convention's printing. But the members of the committee did not see fit to contract with any bidders except the lowest, unless they did so with the approval and by the direction of the Convention itself.

MR. DARNELL said he had never shirked responsibility, and that the committee had been seeking to perform its duty faithfully. They had consulted many members in regard to papers, and not three out of any five were willing to take the same paper, hence the reference to the Convention. With respect to the other matters before the committee they would report as soon as they were prepared to do so. For his own part he had never avoided any duty, and was entirely willing for the Committee on Printing to be abolished. He was not aware that any had suffered from the absence of printed rules, and thought they were getting along fairly well under parliamentary rules. He knew that the chairman had acted in good faith and was using all dispatch. For his own part he had been ill and had been unable to render as much aid as he had desired.

MR. COOK, chairman of the Printing Committee, explained what had been done by the committee. The Secretary had been authorized to get the current work done until a contract was made. The settlement of the printing question for a body like the Convention was a difficult matter, and it could not be disposed of in an hour or a day. If they went back to the journals of every body of a similar nature which had assembled in Texas they would find that there had always been trouble in disposing of the printing. In the Convention of 1866 the delegates had experienced a similar trouble, and it contracted for ten papers for each member at 10 cents a copy, while the propositions before the present Convention varied from

2½ to 5 cents a copy, and yet it had refused to subscribe for a single paper. Some members of the Committee on Printing had been ill, but an appointment had been made for a meeting at the close of that day's business, to receive bids for the printing of the journals and the Constitution. The contract would also include the current printing for the use of the Convention. Proposals were already on his desk from the proprietors of printing establishments of Austin. Now if the matter were taken from the Printing Committee at that hour it was all right. He made no objection and only had risen in vindication of the course of the committee. If the Convention proposed to attend to the work it should abolish the committee.

MR. J. L. HENRY, of Smith, moved as an amendment that the Committee on Printing be directed to receive sealed proposals to do the printing of the Convention, and to contract with the lowest responsible bidder.

MR. JOHN S. FORD, of Cameron, said the members of the committee did not feel like staying under the imputation of shirking responsibility. He thought the records of the gentlemen who composed the committee would show that they had assumed responsibilities that the gentleman from Colorado would perhaps have dodged a little. It was not in good taste to cast imputations upon men who had done their duty for a lifetime, and some of them had done duty for Texas probably before the gentleman from Colorado was of an age to assume responsibility. It was a very difficult matter to contract for printing. Bids could be made which, while looking lower than the rest, were in reality higher. It would be almost impossible for those not acquainted with the business to decide justly. The members of the Printing Committee were more or less acquainted with the subject, while members generally were probably not appreciative of the problems involved. The time allowed the committee had not been sufficient to do justice to the subject, and he hoped it would be prolonged. For his part he could have wished to have had no connection with the question, for it had raised a row in every Legislature that had ever been held. He intended to vote to give the printing out to the lowest bidder, and if any man was not satisfied with his conduct he knew where to find him.

MR. McCORMICK said he felt like the boy who had poked his stick into the hornet's nest. The last speaker had not heard as much of the matter as he, McCormick had, and that explained his objection to delay.

MR. BROWN favored reference to the committee. No other body had ever accomplished more in the same length of time than had the Convention. They were suffering no inconvenience from delay for a few days, and in the end it would be settled in justice to themselves and the State. He hoped the committee would be allowed reasonable time. He had come to Austin to do his duty undeterred by newspapers.

COLONEL CRAWFORD maintained that the resolution relieving the committee was no imputation on them.

MR. STOCKDALE renewed his motion to refer the original resolution and substitutes to the Printing Committee, which was carried.

THE PRESIDENT at this point exonerated the Secretary from all blame concerned with the printing of the rules, and announced that they were already printed.

Mr. Goddin Resigns

MR. M. H. GODDIN, of Walker, sent up a communication to the chair and asked that it be read, saying that he wished to resign and leave. The Secretary read the resignation.

MR. WEBSTER FLANAGAN, of Rusk, moved that the resignation be accepted.

MR. BROWN moved to lay it on the table until Monday.

MR. FLANAGAN said it was a question of privilege, and the member had a right to resign whenever he wanted to.

MR. McLEAN said the honorable gentleman did not intend to charge the State anything for coming to Austin and going back home. He offered an amendment that the mileage and per diem pay be not allowed.

THE PRESIDENT said the amendment was out of order. If the member had been there one day only he would be entitled to the mileage and per diem pay for the time he served.

MR. FLANAGAN said there need be no discussion on that score, for he understood the gentleman from Walker had sold his claims

against the State of Texas for \$30. Mr. Flanagan's motion prevailed, and the resignation was accepted.¹¹

SEVENTH DAY

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1875¹²

(The seventh day of the Convention was consumed entirely by reports of committees and resolutions which were referred to appropriate committees. No debates were reported for that day.)

EIGHTH DAY

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1875¹³

MR. ROBERTSON, for the special committee with reference to the appointment of a stenographer to report the debates, reported as follows: that the services of Mr. George Gibbons could be obtained at \$10 a day, provided he confined his services to the reporting of the debates. He suggested for the committee that it would be essential to have a condensed report of the journals, which would have to be made by the Journal Clerk, as it would be impracticable for the stenographic reporter to do more than take notes and write out the debates. Mr. Robertson moved that the services of Mr. Gibbons be engaged at \$10 a day to report the debates of the Convention, and that the Committee on Printing contract for the publication of same. The motion was lost.

MR. FLOURNOY rose to suggest the propriety of reconsidering the resolution voting down the employment of a stenographer. He thought he had no right to move a reconsideration, since he had voted with the minority.

¹¹Goddin was elected by the voters of the Fifteenth District as a Republican. He was an insane colored man, arrived in Austin late, and resigned after one day's service. Two weeks later, A. T. McKinney, of Walker, was elected as the seventy-sixth Democratic delegate. See *West Texas Free Press* (San Marcos), September 18, and October 9, 1875.

¹²The proceedings for this day were taken from the *State Gazette* (Austin), September 14, 1875.

¹³The proceedings for this day were taken from the *State Gazette* (Austin), September 15, 1875.