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their downfall. When the children of Israel obeyed their own laws and lived as their fathers had instructed them, they were happy, prosperous, and contented. But when they ran after 'strange gods,' and desired to be as the surrounding nations were, they began to decline, and finally lived as a nation only in history. While Greece and Rome lived frugally under their own laws and had their own national customs and institutions, encouraged agriculture and the peaceful arts, they were the model nations of the world. But when they followed the fortunes of Alexander and the Caesars, respectively, introduced the luxuries of the world and became cosmopolitan in character, they declined and now live only as monuments of the past.

"Let us adhere to the landmarks of our fathers, as settled by our most able and patriotic men, and rendered sacred by long and continued use, and train our children to love and respect our own peculiar institutions, laws, and customs. Let us use the *old ship*, compass, and charts left us by our ancestors, in our voyage, making only the necessary repairs and additions, and such as are demanded by the discoveries of other experienced seamen since their day, instead of seeking some great and finely rigged steamer that is untried, and may owe its importance only to its fine and stylish appearance.

"In answer to my friend from Colorado, Mr. McCormick, and others, I will say that this resolution entails no expense, for there are several hundred copies of the statutes of Oldham and White in the archives of the State Government, which are serviceable only as food for worms. They contain the Constitution of 1845, and every committee and individual member can be supplied with a copy without any additional cost whatever."

MR. DEMORSE said that, while everyone admitted the wisdom of the principles of the Constitution of 1845, they were sent, not to reenact that or any other instrument, but to make a Constitution according to their best lights on the subject. He moved the indefinite postponement of the report, which was carried.

TWELFTH DAY

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1875¹⁹

MR. FORD, for the Committee on State Affairs, reported favorably on authorizing Captain Voigt to contract for the repair of the Capitol Building at a cost not to exceed \$75.

¹⁹The proceedings for this day were taken from the *State Gazette* (Austin), September 19, 1875.

MR. MARTIN, of Navarro, thought the Convention had no authority to appropriate money for such a purpose, and moved the indefinite postponement of the resolution.

MR. FORD contended that it was public property, and that the Convention had the right to take care of it.

MR. STOCKDALE stated that there was a law against any officials paying for anything out of public funds for which no appropriation had been made.

The yeas and nays were called for on the question, and indefinite postponement was refused by a vote of 39 to 40.

The resolution of the committee was then adopted by a vote of 43 to 40.

MR. COOK, from the Committee on Printing, reported adversely to allowing delegates from frontier counties thirty papers each for distribution among their constituents.

The same committee reported favorably on allowing each delegate \$10 worth of stamps for the session.

MR. McCORMICK said he thought the Convention was carrying the matter a little too far. He subscribed for thirteen papers and paid for them himself, and he thought the least the Convention could do was pay the postage on them. The implication seemed to be that some members had taken too many postage stamps. The thing was becoming ridiculous. He was as much in favor of retrenchment and reform as anyone, but when they refused to go to the expense of putting in a pane of glass or paying for a postage stamp for a delegate to send a letter to his wife, he thought it was going too far.

MR. NUNN moved, as an amendment, that \$10 be stricken out of the resolution, and \$5 inserted. He submitted that, as far as he was able to know, they had no papers containing published reports of their proceedings, and it was, therefore, a work of supererogation to provide the means of distributing papers. There were some expenses it would be reasonable to allow, and he thought that \$5 would be adequate to meet those expenses. The Convention had refused to take papers with a stenographic report or otherwise, and he could see no reason for incurring additional expense.

An amendment was offered to strike out \$5 and insert none. This was accepted by Mr. Nunn.

MR. McCORMICK moved to postpone the resolution indefinitely. The motion was lost by a vote 25 yeas to 47 nays.

THE PRESIDENT said the effect of Mr Nunn's amendment would be to allow stationery without limit. Mr. Nunn withdrew his amendment.

JUDGE BALLINGER moved as a substitute to the original motion, "that the Sergeant-at-Arms be instructed to furnish stationery, postage stamps, and wrappers to members, and that they report the amount used by each member, the same to be published in the proceedings of the Convention." Adopted.

The resolution, as amended, was then adopted by a vote of 67 yeas to 16 nays.

GENERAL J. W. WHITFIELD, of Lavaca, moved that the Committee on Printing be authorized to contract with some paper published in the City of Austin for the publication of the daily Journals, and that each delegate be furnished with five copies of same.

MR. L. W. MOORE, of Fayette, thought the Convention had settled all matters of that sort and could not entertain them further.

GENERAL WHITFIELD explained that it was a new question entirely.

MR. MARTIN, of Navarro, moved to strike out "five" and insert "one."

MR McCORMICK moved to strike out "one" and insert "one for every three members." His amendment was lost.

Mr. Martin's amendment also was lost, and the original resolution was adopted.

THIRTEENTH DAY

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1875²⁰

MR. J. L. HENRY, of Smith, from the Committee on Legislative Department, submitted a substitute for the sections referred to them, the main features of which follow:

The substitute favored the election of thirty members to the Senate, and of ninety to the House until the first apportionment, when the Senate might be increased to thirty-three members and the House to 100, the successors to the former to be chosen every four

²⁰The proceedings for this day were taken from the *State Gazette* (Austin), September 21, 1875.