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JUDGE REAGAN suggested that the amendment should be altered so as to read "all the laws on one subject."

Mr. Cline's amendment was adopted.

JUDGE BALLINGER moved to add to Sections 43, 35, and 36, "shall not limit the effect which may be given by law to such digest." The amendment was adopted.

The article was engrossed with only sixteen dissenting votes.

THIRTY-EIGHTH DAY

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1875⁷⁷

Immigration

MR. RUSSELL, of Wood, supplemented the majority report by the following resolution: "The Legislature shall not have the power to appropriate any of the public money for the establishment and maintenance of a bureau of immigration, or for any purposes of bringing immigrants to the State."

MR. WAELDER offered as a substitute an article submitted in the minority report providing for "the establishment and maintenance and support of a bureau of agriculture, statistics, and immigration. In support of this he said there seemed to be no great desire for immigration, but so far as he could see as to what could be gathered from the acts of the Convention at that hour, it did seem that immigration was not desired and that the immigration which would be greatly induced by the establishment of an immigration bureau, was less desired than the other, that is, immigration from beyond the Atlantic. Yet this immigration had done much for the improvement of the State of Texas. He reminded them of the case of the region lying between Austin and San Antonio, the valley of the Guadalupe, from San Marcos to within a few miles of San Antonio, which had been converted from sterility into blooming gardens. That foreign population had done more for that section in the advancement of the agricultural interests in the west than any other population within the same limits, every one would admit. Those who had traveled along the Colorado River

⁷⁷The proceedings for this day were taken from the *State Gazette* (Austin), October 20, 1875.

in the counties of Bastrop, Fayette, Austin, Bell, and Colorado, knew that the fairest portions of those counties had been converted into garden spots by the energy and industry of foreigners who settled there. Was it desirable that this class of population should be excluded in the future? If the majority report was adopted by the Convention it would be understood to be a declaration to that effect. Even a Republican Legislature had been sensible enough of the advantages of immigration, to invite and induce immigration and to protect immigrants when they came to Texas. He did not defend the bureau as established by the Twelfth Legislature, for the purposes sought to be accomplished by that bureau were a failure rather than otherwise. He did not say that the system and the management of the system should be continued, but that the Convention should not fail to provide some mode by which immigration should be encouraged and immigrants be made to feel that they were welcome in Texas. This he thought would be induced by the establishment of a bureau of agriculture, statistics, and immigration, such as he had proposed, not to pay men for coming here, but to disseminate useful information regarding the State, such as was always required by persons about to seek new homes. It might be said that such information would be disseminated by private enterprise, such as the *Galveston News Almanac*.

JUDGE REAGAN said it was not published any longer.

MR. WAELDER then said that channel of information had been closed. He then went on to argue that however valuable such information might be, it was infinitely more valuable when coming with authority from an officer of the Government. It would also furnish valuable information for the people of Texas, which was of such vast dimensions that one section was but illy informed of what the other possessed. The expense would be trivial compared with the value of the information, and would be more than compensated for in the increase of population and the proportionate increase of wealth and prosperity attending it. The bureau, he thought, would require but one officer at its head, and perhaps a single clerk, with a liberal appropriation for stamps and printing. He was told that there were sections where an increase of the population was not desired, but he knew there were many parts of the

State where population was needed; and it was his deliberate conviction that what Texas most needed to build up her prosperity and develop her resources was more population.

JUDGE REAGAN moved to amend the substitute by striking out the proviso and inserting the words, "provided that the money expended by this bureau shall be for the collection and dissemination of information on these subjects, and that no money shall be paid out for bringing immigrants to the State."

MR. SANSOM proposed the following as a substitute for the substitute and amendment: "That there shall be added to the clerical force of the Comptroller's office one clerk who shall arrange in tabular form all statistical information and the laws to be passed by the Legislature, for the purpose, relating to the agricultural, mineral, and mining interests of the State, and it shall be the duty of the Legislature to provide from time to time for the publication of the same."

The Sansom substitute was ruled out of order.

MR. MCLEAN said that he had opposed the establishment of the bureau of immigration in 1870, while a member of the Lower House of the Legislature. Mr. Waelder had acknowledged it a failure and had failed to show that it had acted as a stimulus to immigration. Mr. Waelder had always been a man of liberal views, but he (Mr. McLean) thought he had taken a sectional view of the immigration question. He said he admitted all that was claimed for the German population and the success and prosperity which had attended their efforts in sections which were not regarded as best adapted to agriculture, but they had not come to Texas under the stimulating influence of an immigration bureau, its agents, or publications. They had come to Texas in a spirit of enterprise, for the sake of enjoying free institutions and free lands, and that their industry might be rewarded and their prosperity grow up in harmony and in consonance with American political and social institutions. Private enterprise, the landowners, and the press of the country would disseminate the necessary information as to soil, climate, etc., without the expense of a bureau. He contended that the article sought to be substituted by Mr. Waelder proposed to give to the Legislature a power to establish a bureau unlimited in the amount of money to be expended in its organization. He

believed that immigration ought to be allowed to pursue its course by a natural process, if they desired a healthy and contented growth of the population. He said for those reasons he would oppose the substitute and the amendment.

MR. GRAVES moved the previous question, but when several members remonstrated he withdrew his motion.

MR. SANSOM said he was sorry Mr. Waelder had misconstrued the sentiment of the House. He felt sure that no member had designed to aim at any particular class of immigrants, nor was there any disposition to repel immigrants by the refusal to report favorably on the establishment of an immigration bureau. His people were opposed to a bureau, though they would welcome any honest man, come whence he might. He thought his substitute, if it had been entertained, would have covered the whole ground. He could not understand why they wanted to crowd Texas so rapidly. In 1866 they had a small population, it was true, but had as good a society and population as they had had in the State at any period since that time. The struggle was unequal in thickly populated countries, and the rich became richer and the poor poorer. He could not see why they wanted to crowd Texas. For those reasons he would oppose the substitute.

JUDGE REAGAN said he was proud of the generous spirit shown by the speakers on both sides of the question. The purpose of the delegates favoring the proviso seemed to be to fix a definite limit on the amount of money that might be spent on an immigration bureau. He thought the members advocating a bureau would be willing to meet that desire. But whatever position the Convention should take should not be construed as hostile to immigration. If they adopted a clause which might be construed as injurious to the interests of immigration, it might operate prejudicially to the adoption of the Constitution. The people were familiar with the policy which had been pursued in Texas and the older states and countries with reference to immigration, and they had seen a growth unparalleled in some states in the history of the whole world. The people did not desire to be burdened with taxation for the purpose of paying the passage of immigrants to this country, but the proviso he had proposed to insert would relieve them of any responsibility in that

direction. He said he would favor the adoption of the substitute if his amendment were incorporated.

MR. WAELDER said he would accept Judge Reagan's amendment.

MR. BROWN said he held then, as he had during the canvass, that honest government, low taxes, and impartial administration of the laws were, together with the salubrious climate and fertile soil of Texas, the best inducements to immigration. As a part of his speech he read an amendment which he would have proposed, if occasion had offered, leaving it with the Legislature to provide a bureau of agriculture and statistics. While he was opposed to anything very extensive, he thought it would be going back on the progress and spirit of the age if they refused to do something in that direction. He did not agree with Mr. Sansom that a matter of such importance should be left to a mere clerk. He had no complaint to make against the head of the existing bureau. He thought he was an honest man who had written his name in the history of Texas, and he hoped that he, or some other such man, one who understood the farming interests of the State, would be put at the head of the new bureau, if one were established.

MR. KING spoke at length in favor of the substitute.⁷⁸

He said: "Mr. President, I did not anticipate that the subject of immigration, and the policy of the State, to be decided upon by this Convention, in reference to that important subject, would come before us for action this morning.

"I recognize the fact that delegates are not here in the particular interest of their several districts or sections; and I trust I understand the responsibilities resting upon each member of this body, as reflected in the results of his individual action, upon the destinies of the whole State. But there are questions with which this Convention proposes to—and of which I think it should take cognizance—whose final adjustment in the Constitution will fall with far greater effect upon some section than upon others. This result is unavoidable, in the nature of things, and is an inevitable consequence of the great territorial extent of the State and the diversity of its interests. The question of immigration is one of these. The western half of Texas is comparatively unpeopled. That section of country, I have the honor in part to represent, has not more than an average of one-tenth of the population to its area, as compared with other sections; nor even in its most thickly

⁷⁸Mr. King's remarks were published in the *State Gazette* (Austin), October 31, 1875.

settled counties, more than one-hundredth part of that which it is capable of sustaining in abundance. Hence this subject is one of especial interest and moment as directly affecting that great and rich, but hitherto comparatively neglected, section of our common State.

"But, sir, however immigration may be needed to develop certain localities, I hold that it is a subject in which the whole State as a body politic, is virtually interested. As affecting the material growth and power of the State it overshadows in importance all others. What is the question, as presented by the report and accompanying article offered by my colleague, Mr. Waelder, the chairman of the committee? In that article he proposes the establishment, in connection with immigration, of a department of agriculture and statistics.

"By means of this bureau, information of our country, its climate, soil, and products; its people and its institutions is to be disseminated abroad. This information, so given, will go out to the world with the stamp of truth upon it—not with a doubtful character of that furnished by interested parties, who may suppress facts or exaggerate advantages; but as my colleague has well said, being published by authority of the State, it will command confidence and credence. Its effect will be, by a simple and faithful portrayal of the incomparable attractions of our State, to stimulate the exodus from the other parts of the world and direct it hither. Then, sir, this following as a result, the question is, does the State, as represented by this Convention, desire population or not? This is the only issue in this debate, and it seems to me that it ought to carry with it, in letters of blazing light, its own affirmative answer.

"If, then, the State wishes to increase her population, and thus add to her industrial wealth, to swell the volume of her revenues, and to raise herself at once in the scale of influence and power, this question must address itself at once to the statesmanship and wisdom of this Convention.

"We have today in Texas a population of 1,500,000 souls. Texas contains an area of 270,000 square miles. This gives us about five souls to the square mile. Other states of the Union have from fifty to two hundred inhabitants to the square mile. And the Kingdom of Belgium has more than three hundred to the square mile.

"At the rate of 100 only to the square mile Texas would have 27,000,000 of people within her borders.

"Now, sir, it was seen that this Convention, holding within its hands in so great a measure the future welfare and destiny of the State, has before it no greater work, no nobler or wiser policy, than that which looks to peopling this immense territory with those who will bring willing hearts and strong arms to till the fertile soil and develop the magnificent but almost untouched resources of wealth

with which Heaven has so lavishly blessed Texas. Let them come whence they may. We need not be afraid of getting too many. We have plenty of room, and some to spare.

“It has been said during this debate that there is a worthy class of citizens who own lands in the State, who have long been looking forward to the enhancement in value of these lands, that they might derive some benefit from them during their lives. This class embraces the early pioneers of Texas, the veterans and heroes of the war of independence. Well, sir, there are none of us who do not recognize the services of these fathers of the State, whose patriotism and courage won an infant empire, which they baptized with their blood. In the consideration of this question, this may well be regarded as an additional reason which commends itself to the Convention. But it is not as affecting the interest of any class of citizens that this matter is to be considered. Immigration ought to be encouraged as a matter of State policy. The true question is, what interest has the State in it?

“As a matter of statistics, it is well known that immigrants will bring with them about \$500 per capita, or about \$1,500 to each head of a family. It is estimated that 250,000 persons have come to Texas during the past year, bringing with them into the State no less than \$125,000,000. But this is not all. The newcomer immediately invests his money in taxable property—generally in land—upon which he makes his homestead. He enters at once upon its cultivation, and becomes a producer and a taxpayer, and to that extent a benefit to the State and a relief to other taxpayers. For, in proportion to the increase of the number of taxpayers and of taxable property, he lightens the burdens of government upon the shoulders of the individual. Thus it is equally the interest of the State and of the individual citizen to facilitate the growth of our population—for the interest of the one is the interest of the other. Now, how are we to get them? Shall we, according to the theory of my friend from Dallas, wait upon the slow process of natural increase and the usual course of immigration—a process by which, however rapidly immigration may be pouring into some sections of the North and the East, it will take the period of generations to people the whole State? Or shall we, at the comparatively trifling expenditures necessary, by making known to the world the surpassing advantages offered by Texas to the immigrant, abridge this tardy process and fill our waste places at once with the millions of enterprising and intelligent people in the United States and in Europe who desire trustworthy information about Texas, and only need and wait for such information to make their homes among us?

“I venture to say, Mr. President, that there are but few members of this Convention who are not in receipt of many letters from one quarter of the country or another, making inquiries about Texas.

They want to know all about the climate, soil, products, society and the respective advantages of different localities, and they generally exhibit, by the character and number of the questions they ask, as much ignorance of Texas as anxiety for exact information. It is known to members of this body that a cry has arisen in many of the older states, and I particularize among other states of the South; that large localities are being depopulated. The young men, the hope of those states, are abandoning their native soil, and are seeking homes in the West. Where are they going?

"It is true we will get several hundred thousand immigrants this year. But this is largely due to the ability and indefatigable energy of the present head of the Immigration Bureau—General J. B. Robertson. And I may say here, sir, that the State owes that gentleman a debt of gratitude for the fidelity and patriotic spirit which characterize the administration of his department,—qualities which equally distinguish his brilliant services in the past. But, after all, we are receiving but a small proportion of this population. That which does find its way to Texas is but a streamlet as compared to the swelling tide which has sought other states and the territories of the West. They would all come to Texas if they knew the facts. They would naturally prefer a state of their own latitude filled with their own people, and in thousands of instances their own friends and kindred.

"I need not animadvert on the attitude of hostility to immigration in which the State would be placed by the adoption of the provision proposed by the member from Wood, by which the Legislature is prohibited from appropriating money to this purpose. Such an attitude would be most unfortunate, to say the least. Take the question in another aspect. I know, sir, that any partisan policy would be utterly out of place in a constitutional convention. We are here to represent the sovereignty of the whole people, not the views or politics of political parties. As a matter of fact, however, it is well known that this Convention is Democratic. And nothing in the political history of the country is better understood than the square unequivocal position of the Democratic party—both before and since the memorable know-nothing contest—as the champion and friend of the foreigner. But, sir, adopt such a declaration in your organic law, and what does it announce to the world? Why, that Texas has departed from its traditional policy; and you may say to the stranger, whether from America, 'We do not want you in Texas, stay where you are, or go elsewhere for a home.' I hope this Convention will not place the State in such an attitude before Christendom!

"The article offered by my colleague does not impose a tax to pay the way of the immigrant. It only contemplates the dissemination of reliable information as to the resources of the State. These

resources are not only unknown out of Texas, but are hardly known to ourselves. Within 100 miles of this capital there are mines of the precious metals, and of copper, lead, and iron, proven by assay to be as pure as any in the United States.

“And yet how many people know it except a few in Texas? Publish this fact under the authority of the State, and capital will not be long in finding its way there, and these mines, which have remained idle since the days of the Spanish Missions, will again yield their treasures. This is but one instance. The value of the mineral deposits of Texas cannot be estimated. They are believed by those who profess to be judges, to exceed those of California. But capital is afraid. The dollar is a timid mover, and goes only where sure of welcome. We need not expect any influx of capital or population unless this information as to our resources of every kind addresses itself to the confidence of those who read it. It has been said that the New Braunfels colony came to Texas voluntarily and without assistance. I will be pardoned for saying that the colony was planted under the auspices of an organized emigration society. They were poor when they came. They went to work under the spur of necessity, and today they and their children, and their children’s children are prosperous and happy. They have subdued the adverse features of the soil and climate, and have demonstrated that crops can be made almost without the rains of Heaven. Let me say under this head that partial as the prejudice of race may render some of us to those of American birth, it is impossible to overestimate what has been done for our State—especially for Western Texas—by the industry and hearty enterprise of our German population. Intelligent, hard working, honest, and frugal, they have wrested much of our frontier from the grasp of the savage, have established law abiding communities wherever they have settled, and have made the wilderness bloom with smiling plenty. They are successful agriculturists and producers. They are prompt to pay their taxes, and have contributed largely to swell the volume of the revenues of the State.

“I ask, Mr. President, is not such a population worth securing? Sir, in wisdom and good policy there can be but one answer to this question.

“This Convention has met to frame a Constitution and to fix a State policy upon certain grave questions. We will commit a grave blunder if we place the State in an attitude of hostility to immigration. It will send a pang of disappointment and chagrin to the hearts of the friends of Texas throughout the world, should she take a step so unworthy of herself and of the proud position she occupies today in the great family of American states. I trust, sir, that wiser counsels will prevail. For I hold that the highest considerations of

good policy dictate the encouragement of the growth of our population by every reasonable measure within our power. This population, embracing the most enterprising and intelligent of every state and people, will be sure to come if we only furnish them the information necessary to enable them to understand the advantages of Texas."

MR. McCORMICK said he could not understand that the Immigration Bureau had been a failure, and while he should vote for the substitute of W^r. Waelder, he would rather vote for the article establishing the Immigration Bureau in the Constitution of 1869. By a policy of immigration, we had increased, since the year 1860, from 216,000 to nearly a million and a half of people. He would quote to them the Democratic platform—as he had done some years ago—to show that the party was pledged to the work of increasing immigration to the State. He also quoted the last message of Governor Coke to the Fourteenth Legislature and said: "I heartily concur in every word of that message. While I consider him one of the best Governors that ever occupied the gubernatorial chair, I also consider him the most far-seeing statesman of modern days. He recommended to the Legislature that they should make adequate provisions to encourage immigration and to their shame be it said they failed to do their duty, but they showed a narrow spirit and failed to come up to their duty in this respect." He reflected on the Legislature for their pretended economy when they converted two small counties into judicial districts, at an annual cost of \$8,000 for each district for the salary of the judge and district attorney, and yet devoted only some \$7,000 to encourage immigration.

He said he hoped he would not be accused of bringing the Governor to bolster up his ideas of immigration. He differed with the gentleman from Williamson, that increasing population would prevent their children from successful competition with others. If his, Mr. McCormick's, children were not able to compete with other children let them go to the wall. Let them invite all classes to settle here and they would make Texas what God intended her to be, a great, glorious, and prosperous State.

MR. WRIGHT said it was the wisdom of statesmanship to examine whether it was to the interest of Texas to encourage immigration. While many members were desirous of encouraging immigration, they were opposed to an immigration bureau being incorporated into the Constitution. They were opposed to paying the way of

people to Texas. While the Democratic party was in favor of honest immigration and protecting immigrants in the enjoyment of their free institutions, the Democratic party had never favored the payment of large sums of money to bring immigrants to the country.

MR. KING said the substitute did not contemplate the payment of money for the purpose of bringing immigrants to Texas.

MR. WRIGHT said he understood that, but was merely following up the line of argument the supporters of the bureau had adopted. If they would limit it and say it should not cost more than \$5,000 annually, he was willing that it should be done. But to open the door to an unlimited extent he was not willing, and the Democratic party was not committed to any such doctrine. Mr. McCormick had said that the Governor was one of the best Governors they had ever had in the State. That might be questioned. For one, he was not prepared to say, nor did he say, that he had been the best Governor Texas had ever had. While his message might have said that he was in favor of immigration, still he was not qualified to speak for the Democratic party, nor to tie them down to what he considered should be the principles of the party. If he supposed that it owing to him as an individual that the party was successful, he was mistaken. The fact was, the Republican party was so low and so demoralized that a stump with an old pair of breeches on it would have defeated it, and hence so far as committing the Democratic party to him, he had no right to do it. In his message he spoke as Governor of the people and not as the Governor of a party, for when he got into the gubernatorial chair he became the chief magistrate of the whole people and of no particular party. The Governor had been lugged into this thing to whip men into the party traces, but it had no effect on him.

MR. McCORMICK said he did not intend to lug the Governor in to influence any gentleman.

MR. WRIGHT said he was glad of it. They were there to make a Constitution for the State of Texas and no one else. If it was necessary to have a bureau of agriculture, all right, but he was opposed to opening the doors to unlimited expenditure and for gentlemen to wander over Europe, smoking cigars and looking big, or for paying a horde of supernumeraries in our own country and opening a very

Pandora's box of ills. He disliked to have to say what he had said unless in explanation of the reasons controlling his vote.

GENERAL WHITFIELD moved to amend the substitute by striking out line 68 and inserting, "that the Legislature shall never make any appropriations to defray the expense of immigrants to this State, and provided further that said bureau shall not cost exceeding \$5,000 per year." He supported his amendment with an energetic speech. He spoke in high praise of the German element, their industry and prosperity, and said that they were more opposed to being taxed to bring immigrants to the State than any other class he had talked to.

MR. McCORMICK said the gentleman from Lamar (Mr. Wright) had seen proper to say that a pair of old breeches on a stump would have defeated the Radical party when Mr. Coke was a candidate for Governor, but he could say this much without fear of contradiction, that a pair of gentleman's breeches from Lamar with himself in them, would not have defeated the Radical party of Texas.

MR. WEAVER spoke next in opposition to the substitute.⁷⁹

He said: "Mr. President, I know that there is no hostility to, or prejudice against, foreign immigration among the people whom I have the honor in part to represent. Two counties of that district are frontier counties, sparsely settled, and they especially invite, and will cordially welcome immigration—as will the people of the whole district—and I think this is the desire of the liberal spirited people of Texas.

"It is not foreign immigration they oppose—it is the institution created by the Constitution of 1869, known as the Bureau of Immigration, with its superintendent at a salary of \$2,500 per year, and his four staff officers (supernumeraries) at \$3,500 per annum—\$16,500, with the Legislature's appropriations—to which the people object. It is the fact that the people are called upon to support this bureau out of their pockets, and to hire immigrants to come here, that makes the people ignore this bureau. Why, sir, the whole civil history is built upon immigration. I point you to her laws—colonial, donations, bounty, and preemption, with her preemption law still recognized by this Convention as a part of the Constitution we are framing—and there never was a day when the people of Texas were not ready with open arms to welcome immigrants without reference to their nationality; while the Government has said to the world: "Homes for the homeless" here without price, from leagues to quarter sections of land. Why, sir, from the day that Lafayette

⁷⁹Mr Weaver's speech was printed in full by the *State Gazette* (Austin), October 24, 1875

and Pulaski came among us, and the brave old German De Kalb poured out his patriotic blood on the field of Camden, to this hour, the policy and the generous spirit of the nation has been to invite emigrants to our shores. The national doors have been wide open to welcome people from Great Britain and continental Europe of all nationalities, who, seeking homes and protection, have fled from the shadows of despotism to the sunlight of constitutional government—to a land of democratic brotherhood.

“It is true, sir, that a party sprang up from the ruins of the noble old Whig party, and taking hold of religious bigotry, aided by demagogues and Protestant preachers (who would have illustrated the beautiful character of Jesus more appropriately if they had tried to preach His doctrine and have ‘rendered unto Caesar the things that are Caesar’s,’ and have led a political crusade against Catholicism alone); that party appealing to religious intolerance, and the inherent love of country and nativity in all men’s bosoms, rose for a brief time, into importance in our political history, but while the insidious serpent know-nothingism was creeping into the cradle of liberty, Democracy—Stephen A. Douglass seized it by the throat, and like another infant Hercules, throttled it in Philadelphia, leaving Henry A. Wise to crush the last stroke of vitality in its tail in Virginia. But we are told today, that this bureau of immigration is a part of the Democratic platform, and my esteemed friend from Colorado, Mr. McCormick, who carries the Democratic platform in his bosom like a lover does his sweetheart’s picture, and I presume, has it for a frontispiece on the fly-leaf of his family Bible, quotes Governor Coke’s argument in his able annual message in favor of this institution. I, for one, have a high regard for the present executive. I am willing to concede to Governor Coke eminent statesmanship, sound practical views, and an able, judicial mind, but I am like the man in the Wisconsin debating society, who insisted that General Henry Dodge fought the battle of New Orleans, and referred to *Plutarch’s Lives* of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, and Froude’s *History of the Black Hawk War* to prove it. I have a lingering impression that Sam Houston was our best Governor.

“Mr. President, this is no party question, and if it were, this is no place for mere partisan views. Our duty demands broader views than the consideration of any political platform or principle. Gentlemen are continually talking about the Democratic platform. Some of them seem to come here with it bound around them like the green withs around Samson’s arms. I am a Democrat, always have been, learned it in the cradle when my lullaby was the campaign songs of Van Buren and Tippecanoe; but if I were fettered with the Democratic platform upon a question of what I deemed right, and due to the people, I would pray for Samsonian strength to snap it asunder. I repeat this is *no partisan issue*. The people simply

don't want to pay immigrats to come here. They want them to come to our land for love of freedom, and to better their condition by improving our rich, uncultivated domain. I think I appreciate the able gentleman from San Antonio, Mr. Waelder, and the worthy German constituents whom he represents, in common with the native Americans, who, as a tribute to his high character, learning, and ability, have sent him here.

"I have stood in my boyhood on the banks of that beautiful river, the Guadalupe, watching its green waters wash the shores of that fine city, which German enterprise, industry, and intelligence have transformed into a garden of Eden beauty, making its valley for miles blush with fruits and flowers, and I thought of the days when the lands west of the Colorado were estimated as little more than a sterile waste, on which the rains of Heaven rarely fell; and I may say the same of Yorktown, Fredericksburg, and other German towns and settlements, that show what foreign immigration has done by the power of machinery and agricultural industries, to bring water from the rocks, with the rise of science, and change into fruitful fields and gardens the waste places and wilderness beauty of Texas. And I think, sir, that these people came here because they love our laws and our lands, and not under the auspices of an immigration bureau. They did not wait for us to send for them and pay their fare. They gladly paid their own passage to get here.

"Sir, that undefinable word used the other day by Mr. Dohoney, and for which my friend Mr. Martin, of Navarro, sought in vain an etemological history of, 'the riff-raff,' I have since learned from a *seance* with Noah Webster, means the pauper population imported by the *deceased* immigration bureau into this State. I say deceased, for the Fourteenth Legislature killed it with an abortion appropriation, and we are now preaching its funeral, and will soon bury it out of sight, for its smell is offensive. But again we are told that it will advertise Texas. *Advertise Texas!* Why, sir, her name, fame, and territory are parts of the world's greatest history; her natural resources, her fertility, her broad, rich prairies, her magnificent forests of all the useful trees of the temperate zone, her wonderful and various agricultural resources, her mountains of iron, coal, granite, marble, silver, gold, copper, and gypsum, her splendid rivers, running from these mountains and flashing across her bosom to the sea, are known wherever civilization extends or American liberty has ever been heard of. Why, sir, you might as well talk of sending a dispatch to China, that gold has been discovered in California. It is known in all Christian lands, and Stanley is telling it today, perhaps, in Central Africa that Texas has more wealth in her bosom than a hundred Californias.

"The distinguished gentleman, whose name has advertised Texas abroad, need have no fears that she will not be heard from in the

'fatherland,' if we abolish this bureau. These immigrants, who come from a nation of scholars world-renowned for science, literature, and inventions, bring with them the educated mind and genius of their mother country; and thousands of newspapers, *Texas Almanacs*, and multiplied thousands of letters, land agents' circulars, and other documents annually reach their far-off friends, inviting them to share our hospitality, prosperity, and free government. They go back to their old homes and say to their kindred and friends, in the words of the Bible, 'Behold I journey to a country of which the Lord thy God hath said, I will give it to thee. Go with us and we will do thee good all the days of thy life.' And we stand in the Gulf shores and say, welcome to this Canaan of fair and happy lands. We say that millions of hospitable homes and rich acres are waiting for your hands without price when you come, *but not one cent to hire you to do so.*

"One word in reply to my friend from Colorado and I am done. He says if we abolish this bureau it will be the last straw on the camel's back, and the Constitution will be defeated. Well, sir, I do not believe the members of this body will allow the ghost of a possible defeated Constitution to scare them until, like himself they 'strain at a gnat and swallow a camel.'"

MR. ABERNATHY moved the previous question, which was sustained.

General Whitfield's amendment was lost by a vote of 18 to 62.

Mr. Waelder's substitute, as amended by Judge Reagan, was lost by a vote of 33 to 47.

THIRTY-NINTH DAY

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1875⁸⁰

MR. RUSSELL, of Wood, presented a minority report of the article on revenue and taxation. He said the minority could not approve of that part of the majority report which permitted non-residents to pay their taxes at the Comptroller's Office, or at any other place than in the county in which their lands was situated.

MR. STOCKDALE moved to reconsider the vote adopting the resolution prohibiting the establishment of a bureau of immigration. The motion was argued at length, and was finally made the special order for the next Wednesday.

⁸⁰The proceedings for this day were taken from the *State Gazette* (Austin), October 21, 1875.