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Mr. Richardson moved to lay the substitute on the table.

On motion of Mr. Johnson of Tarrant, the Convention adjourned until Monday morning, 9½ o'clock, pending Mr. Richardson's motion to lay Mr. Slaughter's substitute on the table.

MONDAY, March 12th, 1866.

Convention met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by the chaplain; roll called; quorum present; journal of yesterday read and adopted.

Mr. Norton, chairman of committee on Condition of the State, made report;

COMMITTEE ROOM, March 12th, 1866.

Hon. D. G. Dickson, President, pro tem., of Convention:

The committee on the Condition of the State, having had several resolutions referred to them, upon the subject of extending relief to debtors, have had the same under consideration, and beg leave to report the accompanying ordinance, and recommend its passage.

AN ORDINANCE,

To provide for the Payment of Debts.

SECTION 1. *Be it ordained by the people of the State of Texas in Convention assembled,* That the Legislature shall have power to pass laws for the relief of debtors, by authorizing a stay of execution upon judgments heretofore rendered, or which may be hereafter rendered, upon debts and liabilities heretofore contracted or incurred, by a stay of execution, from year to year, or from court to court, for not more than four years, upon condition that the interest and one-fourth of the principal be paid in each year: and the Legislature shall provide in all such cases for securing creditors by liens upon such property of the debtors, and otherwise, as may be necessary and proper.

SEC. 2. The Legislature may also restrain the collection of debts heretofore contracted, secured by deeds of trust and mortgages, upon the same terms as they may prescribe for stay of execution upon judgments.

SEC. 3. It is hereby declared that all statutes of limitations heretofore passed shall be deemed and held to be inoperative from the first day of February, eighteen hundred and sixty-one, to this time.

Read first time, and takes its place among orders of the day.

Mr. Roberts, chairman of committee on the Judiciary, made report:

COMMITTEE ROOM, March 12th, 1866.

Hon. D. C. Dickson, President pro tem. of the Convention :

The Judiciary Committee, to whom was referred the resolution of the delegate from Bowie, (Hon. H. R. Runnels,) directing an inquiry into the propriety of preventing certain suits and prosecutions from being brought, for injuries done under the authority of the Confederate States, or of this State, have had the same under consideration, and direct me to report the accompanying ordinance upon the subject, and recommend its adoption.

AN ORDINANCE,

To Prevent the Bringing of Certain Civil Actions and Criminal Prosecutions.

Be it ordained by the people of the State of Texas in Convention assembled, That no person shall be sued in any civil action, nor prosecuted in any criminal proceeding, for or on account of any seizure, impressment, or injury to property or person, or other act done since the 2d day of February, 1861, by virtue or in pursuance of military authority given by the Confederate States Government, or by this State, or in pursuance of orders given by any person vested with such authority; nor shall any person be held responsible in any civil action, or criminal prosecution, for any such injury to person or property, in which he was not an actual participant.

Read first time, and placed among orders of the day.

Mr. Waul introduced following ordinance :

AN ORDINANCE

To Secure the Possession and Property of the Salt Lake, known as "El Sal del Rey," in the State of Texas.

Whereas, the salt lake in Hidalgo county, known as "El Sal del Rey," was reserved as the property of the crown of Spain, and the title having become vested the State, and it being desirable to secure the revenues thereof, to the State:

Be it ordained, by the people of the State of Texas, in Convention assembled, That the Legislature at its next session shall cause possession to be taken of the salt lake known as "El Sal del Rey," for the benefit of the State, and shall pass such laws as may be necessary to provide for the settlement and final disposition of all claims that may be made by any person or persons, adverse to the right of the State.

Read first time, and referred to committee on General Provisions Constitution.

Mr. Beall offered the following resolution :

Resolved, That this Convention adjourn, *sine die*, on Monday, 26th inst., at 10 o'clock, A. M.

Laid over one day, for consideration.

Mr. Giddings offered the following resolution :

Resolved, That the President of the United States be requested to appoint a commissioner, to visit Texas, for the purpose of ascertaining the real condition of the freedmen, and the feeling and disposition of their former masters towards them, with a view of gaining such reliable information as will enable the government to determine the necessity of a longer continuance of the Freedman's Bureau in this State.

Read first time, and referred to committee on Condition of the State.

The question pending at the hour of the last adjournment, viz : the motion of Mr. Richardson to lay the substitute of Mr. Slaughter on the table,

The question recurring on said motion, and the Yeas and Nays being called, stood thus :

Yeas—Messrs. Armstrong, Bacon, Benge, Bumpass, Davis of Webb, Davis of Cherokee, Degener, Flanagan, Hancock, Hart, Hill, Hurt, Johnson of Tarrant, Johnson of Titus, Jones of Bastrop, Jones of Bexar, Lane, Latimer, Ledbetter, Mabry, McCormack, Middleton, Murchison, Norton, Parker, Ranck, Saunders, Shields, Shuford, Shaw, Smith of Colorado, Smith of Lamar, Taylor of Fannin, Thomas of Cameron, Varnell, Woods and Young—37.

Nays—Messrs. Allen, Anderson, Ball, Beall, Bryan, Bradshaw, Burke, Camp of Upshur, Clements, Dickson, Drake, Frazier, Gentry, Giddings, Gurley, Halbert, Henderson, Hunt, Ireland, Lindsey, Nelson, Norris, Parsons, Perry, Phillips, Porter, Randolph, Reeves, Roberts, Runnels, Saufley, Selman, Shepard, Slaughter, Spaight, Taylor of Houston, Thompson, Tyus, Walker, Waul, Whitfield and Wilson—42.

So the motion to lay on the table was lost.

The question recurring on the adoption of Mr. Slaughter's substitute, and during the debate Mr. Smith of Colorado having occupied the floor thirty minutes was called to order by the Speaker, under the rule, and the question being shall the gentleman have leave to proceed? and the Yeas and Nays being called for, stood thus :

Yeas—Messrs. Bacon, Benge, Bryan, Clements, Dalrymple, Davis of Webb, Davis of Cherokee, Degener, Drake, Flanagan, Frazier, Gentry, Gurley, Halbert, Hancock, Hart, Hill, Hurt, Johnson of Tarrant, Johnson of Titus, Jones of Bastrop, Lane,

Latimer, Ledbetter, Mabry, McCormack, Middleton, Murchison, Nelson, Norton, Parker, Parsons, Porter, Ranck, Reeves, Richardson, Roberts, Saunders, Saufley, Selman, Shields, Shuford, Shaw, Smith of Colorado, Smith of Lamar, Taylor of Fannin, Tyus, Varnell, Walker, Waul, Whitfield and Young—52.

Nays—Messrs. Allen, Anderson, Ball, Beall, Bradshaw, Burke, Bumpass, Camp of Upshur, Dickson, Giddings, Henderson, Hunt, Lindsey, Norris, Perry, Phillips, Randolph, Runnels, Shepard, Slaughter, Spaight, Taylor of Houston, Thompson, Wilson and Woods—24.

So the Convention granted Mr. Smith leave to proceed.

The question again recurring on the adoption of the substitute of Mr. Slaughter, and the Yeas and Nays being called for, stood as follows :

Yeas—Messrs. Allen, Anderson, Ball, Beall, Bryan, Bradshaw, Burke, Camp of Upshur, Clements, Dalrymple, Dickson, Frazier, Gentry, Giddings, Gurley, Halbert, Henderson, Hunt, Ireland, Lindsey, Nelson, Norris, Parsons, Perry, Phillips, Porter, Randolph, Reeves, Roberts, Runnels, Saufley, Selman, Shepard, Slaughter, Spaight, Taylor of Houston, Thompson, Tyus, Walker, Waul, Whitfield and Wilson—42.

Nays—Messrs. Armstrong, Bacon, Benge, Bumpass, Davis of Webb, Davis of Cherokee, Degener, Drake, Flanagan, Hancock, Hart, Hill, Hurt, Johnson of Tarrant, Johnson of Titus, Jones of Bastrop, Jones of Bexar, Lane, Latimer, Ledbetter, Mabry, McCormack, Middleton, Murchison, Norton, Parker, Ranck, Richardson, Saunders, Shields, Shuford, Shaw, Smith of Colorado, Smith of Lamar, Taylor of Fannin, Thomas of Cameron, Varnel, Woods and Young—39.

So the substitute was adopted in lieu of the substitute introduced by Mr. Hancock.

The question recurring on the adoption of the substitute just adopted, for the majority report,

Mr. Shields moved to amend the substitute by adding the words "from the beginning," after the words "null and void."

Mr. Henderson moved to lay the motion on the table, and the Yeas and Nays being called for, stood thus :

Yeas—Messrs. Allen, Anderson, Ball, Beall, Bryan, Bradshaw, Burke, Camp of Upshur, Clements, Dalrymple, Dickson, Frazier, Gentry, Giddings, Gurley, Halbert, Henderson, Hunt, Ireland, Lindsey, Nelson, Norris, Parsons, Perry, Phillips, Porter, Randolph, Reeves, Roberts, Runnels, Saufley, Selman, Shepard, Slaughter, Spaight, Taylor of Houston, Thompson, Tyus, Walker, Waul, Whitfield and Wilson—42.

Nays—Messrs. Armstrong, Bacon, Benge, Bumpass, Davis of Webb, Davis of Cherokee, Degener, Drake, Flanagan, Hancock, Hart, Hill, Hurt, Johnson of Tarrant, Johnson of Titus, Jones of Bastrop, Jones of Bexar, Lane, Latimer, Ledbetter, Mabry, McCormack, Middleton, Murchison, Norton, Parker, Ranck, Richardson, Saunders, Shields, Shuford, Shaw, Smith of Colorado, Smith of Lamar, Taylor of Fannin, Thomas of Cameron, Varnell, Woods and Young—39.

So the proposition was laid on the table.

The question again recurring on the adoption of the substitute for the majority report,

Mr. Hart moved to adjourn till 7½ o'clock to-night.

Lost.

The question again recurring on the adoption of said substitute for the majority report, and the Yeas and Nays being called for, stood thus:

Yeas—Messrs. Allen, Anderson, Ball, Beall, Bryan, Bradshaw, Bumpass, Burke, Camp of Upshur, Clements, Dalrymple, Dickson, Drake, Frazier, Gentry, Giddings, Gurley, Halbert, Henderson, Hunt, Hurt, Ireland, Lindsey, Mabry, Nelson, Norris, Parsons, Perry, Phillips, Porter, Randolph, Reeves, Roberts, Sannels, Saufley, Selman, Shepard, Slaughter, Spaight, Taylor of Houston, Thompson, Tyus, Walker, Waul, Whitfield and Wilson—46.

Nays—Messrs. Armstrong, Bacon, Benge, Davis of Webb, Davis of Cherokee, Degener, Flanagan, Hancock, Hart, Hill, Johnson of Tarrant, Johnson of Titus, Jones of Bastrop, Jones of Bexar, Lane, Latimer, Ledbetter, McCormack, Middleton, Murchison, Norton, Parker, Ranck, Richardson, Saunders, Shields, Shuford, Shaw, Smith of Colorado, Smith of Lamar, Taylor of Fannin, Thomas of Cameron, Varnell, Woods and Young—36.

So the substitute of Mr. Slaughter was substituted for the majority report.

The question being the engrossment of the ordinance,

Mr. Norton offered following as an amendment:

“Amend by inserting after the word “void,” “and declared to have been so *jam dudum*.”

Amendment withdrawn.

The question recurring on the engrossment of the ordinance, and the Yeas and Nays being called, stood thus:

Yeas—Messrs. Allen, Anderson, Ball, Beall, Bryan, Bradshaw, Burke, Camp of Upshur, Clements, Dalrymple, Dickson, Drake, Frazier, Gentry, Giddings, Gurley, Halbert, Henderson, Hunt,

Ireland, Lindsey, Mabry, Nelson, Norris, Perry, Phillips, Peter, Randolph, Reeves, Roberts, Runnels, Saufley, Selman, Shepard, Slaughter, Spaight, Taylor of Houston, Thompson, Tyus, Walker, Waul, Whitfield and Wilson—43.

Nays—Messrs. Armstrong, Bacon, Benge, Bumpass, Davis, Webb, Davis of Cherokee, Degener, Flanagan, Hancock, Hill, Hill, Hurt, Johnson of Tarrant, Johnson of Titus, Jones, Bastrop, Jones of Bexar, Lane, Latimer, Ledbetter, McCormack, Middleton, Murchison, Norton, Parker, Parsons, Ranck, Richardson, Saunders, Shuford, Shaw, Smith of Colorado, Smith of Lamar, Taylor of Fannin, Thomas of Cameron, Varnell, Wood and Young—37.

So the House ordered the ordinance to be engrossed.

By leave, Mr. Davis of Cherokee offered following resolution:

Resolved, That the Hon. C. A. Frazier be indefinitely excused from attendance upon the Convention, and that the Secretary furnish him the proper certificate to draw his mileage and per diem to this date.

Adopted.

Mr. Henderson moved to reconsider the vote ordering the engrossment of the ordinance under consideration, and further moved to lay said motion on the table.

Mr. Flanagan moved to adjourn till 7½ o'clock this evening on which the Yeas and Nays were ordered, and stood thus:

Yeas—Messrs. Armstrong, Bacon, Benge, Davis of Webb, Davis of Cherokee, Degener, Drake, Flanagan, Hancock, Hill, Hill, Hurt, Johnson of Tarrant, Johnson of Titus, Jones, Bastrop, Jones of Bexar, Lane, Latimer, Ledbetter, Mabry, McCormack, Middleton, Murchison, Norton, Ranck, Saunders, Shuford, Shaw, Smith of Colorado, Smith of Lamar, Taylor of Fannin, Thomas of Cameron, Varnell and Young—34.

Nays—Messrs. Allen, Anderson, Ball, Beall, Bryan, Brushaw, Bumpass, Burke, Camp of Upshur, Clements, Dalrymple, Dickson, Gentry, Giddings, Gurley, Halbert, Henderson, Hill, Ireland, Lindsey, Nelson, Norris, Parsons, Perry, Phillips, Peter, Randolph, Reeves, Richardson, Roberts, Runnels, Saufley, Selman, Shepard, Slaughter, Spaight, Taylor of Houston, Thompson, Tyus, Walker, Waul, Whitfield, Wilson and Wood—44.

So the House refused to adjourn.

The question recurring on the motion of Mr. Henderson lay on the table, and the Yeas and Nays being called for, stood thus:

Yeas—Messrs. Allen, Anderson, Ball, Beall, Bryan, Bradshaw

Burke, Camp of Upshur, Clements, Dalrymple, Dickson, Drake, Gentry, Giddings, Gurley, Halbert, Henderson, Hunt, Ireland, Landey, Mabry, Nelson, Norris, Parsons, Perry, Phillips, Porter, Randolph, Reeves, Richardson, Roberts, Runnels, Saufley, Selman, Shepard, Slaughter, Spaight, Taylor of Houston, Thompson, Tyus, Walker, Waul, Whitfield and Wilson—44.

Says—Messrs. Armstrong, Bacon, Benge, Bumpass, Davis, Webb, Davis of Cherokee, Degener, Flanagan, Hancock, Hart, Hill, Hurt, Johnson of Tarrant, Johnson of Titus, Jones of Bastrop, Jones of Bexar, Lane, Latimer, Ledbetter, McCornack, Middleton, Murchison, Norton, Parker, Ranck, Saunders, Shields, Shuford, Shaw, Smith of Colorado, Smith of Lamar, Taylor of Fannin, Thomas of Cameron, Varnell, Woods and Young—36.

So the motion was tabled.

On motion of Mr. Flanagan, the Convention adjourned till 7½ o'clock this evening.

7½ o'clock, P. M.

Convention met; roll called; no quorum.

Absentees—Messrs. Allen, Bryan, Davis of Webb, Degener, Flanagan, Hancock, Hart, Hill, Hurt, Johnson of Tarrant, Jones of Bastrop, Jones of Bexar, Latimer, Ledbetter, McCornack, Parker, Ranck, Richardson, Saunders, Shuford, Shields, Taylor of Fannin, Thomas of Cameron, Varnell and Young.

No quorum appearing,

On motion of Mr. Spaight, Convention adjourned to meet tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock.

TUESDAY, March 13th, 1866.

Convention met pursuant to adjournment; prayer by the Chaplain; roll called; quorum present; journal of yesterday read, and adopted.

Mr. Johnson, chairman committee on Public Lands, made the following report:

COMMITTEE ROOM, March 9, 1866.

Hon. D. C. Dickson, President pro tem. of the Convention:

The committee on Public Lands, to whom was referred a resolution requiring them to inquire into the expediency of giving to actual settlers upon the unappropriated public domain of the State three hundred and twenty acres of land, have had the same under consideration, and instruct me to report the accompanying ordinance, and recommend its adoption by the Convention: