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COMMITTEE ROOM,
AUSTIN, October 4, 1875. }

To the Hon. E. B. Pickett, President of the Convention:

The undersigned, a member of your Committee on Immigration, to which committee were referred certain resolutions, memorials, etc., relating to and concerning the establishment and maintenance of a Bureau of Immigration, would submit that he can not concur in the report as made by a majority of said committee. He does not believe that the report above referred to is an expression of what he believes to be the wishes and opinions of a large majority of the people of this State upon this most important subject.

Said report, under the pretext of declining to impose upon the people of this State any additional burden in the way of taxation, in effect, by the present abolition of the present system of immigration, and its recommendation that no other system be inaugurated, by decreasing the number of immigrants, will cause an increase of taxation.

But it is contended that many immigrants, attracted by the salubrious climate, fertile soil, and the many advantages which attend a residence in Texas, will come within our borders without the outlay upon the part of the State of any money, and without receiving from the people thereof any assistance in coming hither.

The undersigned would submit that although moved by various considerations as above, many immigrants in the course of time may become citizens of the State, yet he regards it as a most mistaken and short-sighted policy upon the part of this Convention to refuse to provide for the establishment and efficient maintenance of an immigration bureau, for the reasons that although much may be accomplished in the building up of the fortunes of our State by individual efforts, yet it is an incontrovertible fact that a well sustained and efficient effort inaugurated and carried out under the supervision of the State inevitably accomplishes much more in attaining the desired end.

By individual effort we may perhaps partially carry out the wishes of the people; by combined effort we *most certainly* will.

It is presumed that no member of said committee seriously believes that it would not greatly redound to the interests of our State, and the interests of every individual citizen thereof, if an efficient bureau of immigration could be maintained. Believing that no one will seriously dispute this to be the fact, the undersigned insists that, therefore, the grounds of objection to such an establishment and maintenance must be those which are pre-

tendent of Public Instruction" was stricken out of section 1, lines 4 and 5

Lost by the following vote

YEAS—Brown, Ballinger, Barnett, Brady, Crawford, Cooley, Cardis, Dillard, DeMorse, Dohoney, Davis of Brazos, Davis of Wharton, Erhard, Ford, Ferris, Henry of Smith, King, Kilgore, Lockett, Martin of Hunt, Mills, Mitchell, McKinney of Walker, McCormick, Moore, Pauli, Reynolds, Rentfro, Smith, Whitfield, West, Waelder—32

NAYS—Allison, Abernathy, Arnum, Abner, Blake, Blassingame, Burleson, Bruce, Chambers, Cook of Gonzales, Cooke of San Saba, Douglas, Darnell, Flournoy, Fleming, German, Gaither, Graves, Holt, Henry of Limestone, Holmes, Haynes, Johnson of Franklin, Johnson of Collin, Killough, Lacy, Lynch, McLean, Martin of Navarro, McKinney of Denton, Norvell, Nugent, Reagan, Ramey, Robertson of Bell, Robeson of Fayette, Russell of Wood, Spikes, Scott, Sessions, Stockdale, Stayton, Sansom, Wade, Whitehead, Weaver—46

Mr Brown moved to adjourn until 9 o'clock A. M. to-morrow.
Carried

TWENTY-SEVENTH DAY

HALL OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
AUSTIN, TEXAS, October 6, 1875. }

Convention met pursuant to adjournment, roll called, quorum present, prayer by Rev R H Willenberg, of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church at Austin

Journal of yesterday read and adopted

Mr. Ramey submitted a communication from J G Hazlewood on the subject of organizing the judiciary.

Referred to the Judiciary Committee

Also a communication from M Youngblood on the subject of the election of sheriffs and assessors in certain cases

Referred to Judiciary Committee

On motion of Mr Martin, of Hunt, Mr Nunn was added to the Committee on Frontier Affairs

Mr Erhard submitted the following minority report

sented by a mistaken idea of economy and the inefficiency of former systems.

As to the argument of economy, the undersigned believes that to put in immediate and practical operation an immigration bureau would require a present outlay with no immediate prospect of reimbursement, yet that eventually the fruits of the industry of the numerous immigrants thereby induced to become citizens of our State would, in the matter of taxable property alone, largely repay to the people of this State the advances made. He submits that the plea of poverty, as advanced by the majority report, is one *unworthy* of the important subject concerning which said report is made.

That by increasing our population we increase our wealth; that the idea that immigrants will fill our broad prairies and till the thousands of acres which as yet are contributing nothing to the support of our State, is a mistaken one, if no effort is made to induce their coming; he believes the argument of poverty to be untenable, in view of the great good to be accomplished by a moderate outlay.

In so far as it is agreed that the failure or partial failure of former systems to carry out the ideas of the advocates of an immigration bureau should warn us that no practical good can arise from an immigration bureau, the undersigned would submit, that the fact that any given idea or proposition may have been abused, does not alone and can not constitute a fair argument against its use. He insists that a fair trial of an immigration bureau has never been had in this State.

It is further contended that, by offers of homesteads, etc., a better class of people will be induced to come among us than would come under the aid-system sought to be devised. The argument is not a good one in view of the fact that, in order to obtain these homes, so generously offered by the State, the immigrant must take up his abode on the frontier, (if he wishes lands fertile,) and live in daily, hourly danger of losing his property, his or his family's lives, because of hostile forays by savages.

That no sufficient number can be induced thus to expose themselves to such imminent peril, to render assistance to each other, or induce any feeling of security.

By the establishing of an aid-system, the hard-working and oppressed toilers of Europe could be induced to pour themselves into our State, and along our exposed frontier, in such numbers that our frontier would soon be the boundary line of our State.

The immigrants we may possibly receive from older States in the Union will necessarily be few in number, because those States

have also inducements to go to the far West, and because those States have, comparatively to Europe, but a small surplus of population

Therefore, it is to the old world that we must look for the people who, in the future, are to rebuild the State and place her in the rank of the States, in that position to which, by virtue of her vast area, she is justly entitled

The undersigned believes that it is contrary to the true policy of this State to discourage immigration, in view of the fact that every other State government of the West has established, and still maintains, an efficient system, to which is due their present prosperity, and he believes that Texas *can not*, in justice to herself, fail in this important particular

The undersigned, in view of the above, respectfully differing with the majority of said committee, submits the above as a minority report in the premises, and urges the adoption of the accompanying article

C. ERHARD

“ARTICLE—
“IMMIGRATION.

“Section 1 There shall be a bureau known as the “Bureau of Immigration,” which shall have supervision and control of all matters connected with immigration The head of this bureau shall be styled the “Superintendent of Immigration.” He shall be appointed by the Governor, by and with the consent of the Senate He shall hold office for four years, and, until otherwise provided by law, shall receive a salary of two thousand dollars per annum He shall have such powers and duties connected with immigration as may be required by law.

“Sec 2 The Legislature shall have power to appropriate part of the ordinary revenue of the State for the purpose of promoting and protecting immigration, and for the maintenance of said bureau, under such regulations as may be provided by law”

On motion of Mr Erhard, one hundred copies of the report and article ordered printed

Mr Russell, of Wood, offered the following resolution:

WHEREAS The history of men and nations prove that the credit system has been the cause of bankruptcy and financial ruin,

AND WHEREAS, The Judiciary Department of our State government has been grievously oppressive, partly by taxing honest, prompt paying citizens to support courts to litigate suits between men who are not governed by principle

AND WHEREAS, A very large and respectable portion of the citizens of Texas demand that the credit system be abolished,

and that the prompt payment system be established, therefore,
Be it ordained by the people of Texas, in Convention assembled, That no debts contracted two years after the ratification of this constitution shall be collected by law.

Referred to the Committee on State Affairs

The Convention then proceeded to consider unfinished business, viz: Article —, "Executive Department"

Mr Ramey called up his motion to reconsider the vote referring to increase the salary of Secretary of State

The motion was lost

Mr Graves moved to strike out section 26

Lost

Mr Nugent proposed to amend by inserting after "compensation" the words "and mileage."

Adopted

Mr Moore proposed to amend by adding to the end of section 1, after the words "Attorney General," "and the Legislature may provide for the election of Superintendent of Public Instruction whenever there may be established a system of free public schools"

Lost by the following vote

YEAS—Ballinger, Brady, Crawford, Cook of Gonzales, Cline, Cooley, Cardis, Dillard, DeMorse, Dohoney, Davis of Brazos, Eihard, Ferris, Flanagan, Gaither, Henry of Smith, Henry of Limestone, King, Kilgore, Lockett, Martin of Navarro, Martin of Hunt, Morris, Mitchell, McKinney of Denton, McKinney of Walker, McCormick, Moore, Nunn, Pauli, Reynolds, Rentfro, Robeson of Fayette, Stockdale, Stayton, Sansom, Whitehead, West, Waelder—38

NAYS—Allison, Abernathy, Armm, Abner, Blake, Blassingame, Barnett, Burleson, Bruce, Chambers, Cooke of San Saba, Douglas, Darnell, Flournoy, Fleming, German, Graves, Holt, Holmes, Haynes, Johnson of Franklin, Johnson of Collin, Killough, Lacy, Lynch, McLean, Mills, Murphy, Norvell, Nugent, Reagan, Ramey, Robertson of Bell, Ross, Russell of Wood, Spikes, Scott, Sessions, Wade, Weaver—41

Mr. Sansom offered the following amendment

Section 24, line 216, strike out "may be required by the Governor under oath," and insert "shall be given under oath"

Lost

Mr Sansom moved to reconsider the vote just taken.

Lost

Mr Mills offered the following amendment:

"Sec 2 There shall be a Superintendent of Public Instruc-

tion, who, after the first term of office, shall be elected by the people; the first term of office shall be filled by appointment of the Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Superintendent shall hold his office for the term of two years; he shall receive an annual salary of \$2500 until otherwise provided by law."

Laid on the table by the following vote:

YEAS—Abernathy, Arnim, Blake, Blassingame, Barnett, Burleson, Bruce, Chambers, Cook of Gonzales, Cooke of San Saba, Cardis, Douglas, Dillard, Darnell, Davis of Brazos, Flournoy, Fleming, German, Gaither, Graves, Holt, Henry of Limestone, Holmes, Haynes, Johnson of Franklin, Johnson of Collin, Lynch, McLean, Martin of Navarro, Martin of Hunt, McKinney, Murphy, Norvell, Nugent, Reagan, Ramey, Robertson of Bell, Robeson of Fayette, Ross, Russell of Wood, Spikes, Scott, Sessions, Stockdale, Sansom, Wade, Whitehead, Weaver, Whitfield—49.

NAVS—Allison, Brown, Ballinger, Brady, Crawford, Cline, Cooley, DeMorse, Dohoney, Davis of Wharton, Erhard, Ferris, Flanagan, Henry of Smith, King, Kilgore, Lockett, Lacy, Morris, Mills, Mitchell, McCormick, Moore, Nunn, Pauli, Reynolds, Rentfro, Smith, Stayton, West, Waelder—32.

Mr. Douglas proposed to strike out "may" and insert "shall," in section 24, line 216.

Adopted.

The article was ordered to be engrossed and read third time.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

The reports of the majority and minority of Committee on Suffrage were taken up.

Mr. Weaver offered the following amendment:

Amend section 2, line 21, by adding: "and provided that female heads of families may vote in all elections for district school officers."

Lost.

Mr. Chambers proposed to strike out all in lines 13 and 14 from the word "vote" in line 13 to the word "election" in line 14.

Mr. Sansom offered the following as a substitute for Mr. Chambers' amendment:

Amend section 2 by inserting after the word "county," in line 14, the words "for school purposes," and by inserting same words after the word "county," in line 21.

On motion of Mr. Allison, the Convention adjourned, pending the amendment and substitute.

EVENING SESSION—2½ o'clock.

Convention met pursuant to adjournment, roll called, quorum present

Question pending on adjournment—viz, Mr. Chambers' amendment to section 2, lines 13 and 14, article —, "Suffrage," with the substitute offered by Mr Sansom—again taken up

Mr Reagan offered the following as a substitute for both propositions, viz

Amend section 2 by striking out of lines 13 and 14 the words "all poll taxes" and inserting "the last poll taxes." And amend section 3 by striking out of lines 24 and 25 the words "all taxes" and inserting "the last taxes."

[Mr Brown in the chair]

On motion of Mr McKinney of Walker, the Convention adjourned until 9 o'clock A M to-morrow

TWENTY-EIGHTH DAY

HALL OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
AUSTIN, TEXAS, October 7, 1875 }

Convention met pursuant to adjournment, roll called, quorum present; prayer by Rev Mr. Groety, of Austin

On motion of Mr Martin, of Navarro, Mr McCormick was excused from attendance on the Convention for two days.

On motion of Mr Reynolds, Mr. Abner was excused from attendance on the Convention for one week from to-morrow

On motion of Mr Cook, of Gonzales, Mr Haynes was excused from attendance on the Convention until Tuesday next.

Mr McKinney, of Walker, at his request, was excused from attendance on the Convention for three days, commencing to-morrow.

Journal of yesterday read and adopted

Mr Russell, of Wood, offered the following amendment to the rules:

Amend the last clause of rule 11 by striking out "fifteen minutes" and inserting "five minutes"

Unfinished business again taken up, viz. "Article —, Suffrage," with pending amendments.

Mr Wade offered the following amendment