

Indiana American.

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The Indiana Legislature—Resignation of Republican Members.

A crisis was reached last week in the Indiana Legislature. Rather than permit a direct and palpable violation of the Constitution, by passing the Apportionment Bill, the Republican members resigned and broke the quorum. It was bad enough to oust a Republican Senator, without reason, but to redistrict the State for Legislative elections, when the Constitution expressly says it shall not be done until 1873, is a little more than law-abiding people can stand. And though we do not approve of following Democratic precedents as a general thing, we cordially endorse the action of our Republican representatives in thus summarily putting a quietus upon any further notorious outrages by the Bourbon Democracy. It is fortunate, indeed, that the "little game" was blocked. Below we give some comments by the press:

(From the Cincinnati Gazette.)

The Democrats procured the control of the Indiana Senate by suspending a Republican member. It was not done by any legal process, but by an act of force in defiance of law. Having thus procured the control of both branches of the Legislature, they were proceeding, in violation of the constitutional provision concerning the apportionment of the State for legislative elections, to reconstitute the State in order to extend their usurpation by their vote for an election. The Republican members of the House resigned in order to stop this usurpation. It has vitiated one Legislature; they determined that this illegality should not be made the means of perpetuating itself, and that the issue should be legally presented to the people at the next election, instead of forestalling it by an illegal and fraudulent apportionment.

The Democratic members have issued an address which is devoted, not to a vindication of their usurpation nor of their apportionment intentions, but to an attempt to show that the Republican members might have waited longer and then resigned, and to a list of the beneficial measures that might have been enacted if the Republicans had remained. They gave a long schedule of their good intentions, and charged the Republicans with preventing the people from having the benefit of them. But we suppose that to the intelligent people it will appear that the party which vitiated the Legislature by illegally depriving a member of his seat and made it a mere usurpation, is the party responsible for its dissolution.

(From the Indianapolis Journal.)

The Republican party of Indiana will justify the course of the Republican members of the Legislature who placed their resignations in the hands of Governor Baker on Wednesday evening. The resigning members were willing to remain and co-operate with the Democrats in the enactment of all laws of general interest to the people, and delayed their resignations until it became evident that the Apportionment Bill was to be rushed through under the spur of the previous question without debate, and to the exclusion of all other business.

We show, in another column, how infamous the provisions of the proposed measure are, and will here repeat the boast of leading Democrats that if it had become a law, the Democracy could carry the Legislature, with a popular majority of 15,000 against them in the State, and would control the legislation of Indiana for twenty years. A committee of Republicans informed the Democrats of the willingness of the Republican members to remain and attend to ordinary legislation, but at the same time notified them that any further attempt to force the passage of the apportionment bill would be defeated. The Democrats refused to make any compromise and expressed a determination to carry it at all hazards, and clearly indicated their purpose to do so by making it the special order for nine o'clock yesterday morning. They met at nine o'clock to find themselves without a quorum.

But this is not all. The course of the Democrats in the Senate furnished additional justification for the action of the Republicans. By the revolutionary course of the majority of the Senate in excluding Senator Burson from his seat, on the first day of the session, and their infamous action in the manner of disposing of the charges trumped up against him, the Democracy evinced a determination to accomplish their purposes without regard to law or parliamentary usage. One of two things had to be done—to remain and allow the corrupt scoundrels to carry out their purposes, or to go to the people on the record they have already made. The latter course was chosen, and that it is right, and that the people will endorse it, we have no doubt. Before resigning the Republican members appointed a Committee to draft an address setting forth the reasons for their action, which is published in this issue, signed by the thirty-four members who vacated their seats.

A terrible colliery explosion in Wales, on Saturday, killed over fifty persons.

The Arkansas Senate met on Saturday, the articles of impeachment were presented, and arrangements made to have the trial go as fast as possible.

The Conditions of Peace.

The result of the consultations that have been in progress has been announced, and we publish the terms of the treaty. Briefly, they comprise—

1. The cession of Alsace and of Metz; Belfort, which is situated in Alsace, to be restored to France.

2. The payment of a war indemnity of five millions of francs, a sum equivalent, in round numbers, to one billion dollars.

3. A portion of the French territory, with some fortified towns, including Sedan, to remain in the possession of the Germans until the conditions of the treaty are fulfilled.

4. The German army to enter Paris.

5. Peace to be proclaimed on the ratification of these conditions by the French Assembly.

From San Domingo.

Vice President Colfax received a private letter from Ex Senator Wade, and Senator Wilson received one from Dr. Howe, of the San Domingo Commission. Mr. Wade gives his impression of Baez and such people of San Domingo as they had been able to meet up to the time of writing. Mr. Wade says he has not seen a person who is not in favor of annexation, and he speaks of the people as quiet and inoffensive.

Dr. Howe, in his letter, says they have discovered that all the opposition to annexation was stirred up by the Haytiens, which Government is anxious to have the Dominican part of the island brought under its control, and, if possible, annexed. Cabral, Dr. Howe says, draws all his support, and has for some time past, from the Haytian Government. Since the question of annexing San Domingo to the United States was agitated, Cabral has received aid in both money and men from Hayti, with a view of making his movement successful. A large portion of the Dominican Government were against both Baez and annexation to Hayti.

The Commission all agree that the only strength the opposition to annexation ever had was in Hayti and not in Dominica.

The Burson Case in the Indiana Senate began with a decision by the Senate that a member with due and proper credentials should be excluded from his seat because it was charged that his seat had been obtained by bribery. In other words, the Senate, holding him not an innocent but a guilty man, proceeded to punish him before any evidence had been heard. All precedents were violated, all justice set at defiance. The next step was to order a decision by the Senate on the report of the committee appointed to investigate the charges made against Mr. Burson, without allowing the Senators the opportunity of examining the evidence in the case. Much of that evidence, it was openly charged, had been successfully impeached. A vote was taken on the question of excluding Mr. Burson, and he was excluded. The action of the Democratic majority has been throughout arbitrary and high-handed, and they will be held responsible for it before the people.

The New York Tribune says: "It now appears that the Santo Domingo Commission is likely to remain on the island until about the middle of April. Meantime, it may be noted that Senator Wade, speaking without knowledge of the precise views of his colleagues, expresses nevertheless the opinion that the report of the Commission will be unanimous in favor of annexation.

The political squabbles in Arkansas have at last resulted in bloodshed. This report has reached Little Rock: "Hon. J. F. Bethel, of Scott County, who was one of the members declared entitled to a seat, was murdered a few days ago by the son of Mr. Ellington, who was ousted in the House, and his seat awarded to Bethel."

The Tennessee is safe. It arrived at Samana Bay, on the north side of the island, on the 27th of January, being but ten days on the journey, not much, if any, more time than should have been consumed. It was detained there six days, and arrived at San Domingo City on the 2d instant.

The Vincennes Sun, one of the ablest Democratic papers in the State, is terribly agitated over the expulsion of Senator Sartorius, of Fort Wayne, and the giving his seat to Mr. Bird. It scoriates the Democrats, Brown, Dittmore, Daugherty and Fransico, who voted for it, and calls the proceeding an "infamous outrage."

The Sentinel is becoming terrified at the aspect of affairs, and earnestly protests against making up the issue of the campaign for 1872 before the meeting of the Democratic National Convention. But will the Sentinel restrain the Blair family which the Democracy now have on their hands? The new leader of the Democracy says the principles of the Broad head must be carried out, and that looks like making up the issues. What are the Sentinel and Mr. Hendricks going to do about it?—[Journal.]

Senator Elliott will soon be gone, but Mr. Alford remains. Will Mr. Alford now step to the front, and say whether Senator Elliott made a false accusation when he charged Mr. Alford with having offered him fifteen thousand dollars for three votes? If not, how much was it? and was it, or any portion of it, paid on or before the day that Hughes and Elliott had an important business transaction with the State Printer and Mr. Alford, upon the eve of Hughes' departure for Washington?—[Journal.]

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Having taken an oath to support the Constitution of the State when we took our seats, we could not sit silently by, and suffer the final accomplishment by the Democracy of this unjust, unconstitutional and revolutionary measure, without

An Address.

To the People of Indiana:

The undersigned members of the House of Representatives of the Forty-seventh General Assembly of the State of Indiana have resigned their seats.

We confidently appeal to the intelligent, law-abiding people of Indiana to sustain our action.

We respectfully submit the following statement of facts:

We have been, as a minority on the floor of the House, compelled to submit to novel, unjust, unprecedented and tyrannical rulings from the Speaker, made for the sole and only purpose of furthering party schemes and measures.

We have been denied our privilege to be heard in support of right, principle and law. Our constitutional rights as a minority have not been respected, but have been trampled under foot by the majority without the semblance of justice or decency. Brutal force has been threatened from the chair to subject us to the arbitrary and unconstitutional demands of the majority. What we have claimed as a privilege, and never before questioned by any deliberative body, has been denied us.

Forbearing to take the step we have finally been compelled to take, our forbearance has been construed into abject submission to their behests.

They demanded that we should acquiesce in the will of the majority to enact an infamous, iniquitous and unconstitutional measure, known as House Bill No. 291, to apportion the State for Senatorial and Representative purposes, denying us, by the operation of the "previous question," the right to amend or suggest any change in the proposed law. And by reason of the accidental majority of the Democratic party upon the floor of the House, all amendments were not only cut off, but the bill referred to was placed out of its regular order, and given precedence over all other important legislation then pending, and having been passed to engrossment under the arbitrary rulings of the Speaker, in direct violation of law, to complete the infamy the bill was, by sheer force of Democratic power, made the special order for the next day at 9 o'clock A. M., thereby declaring that all legislation, of whatsoever character or importance, should be postponed until the unlawful and unconstitutional behests of the majority should be subverted.

The enormity and infamous character of this measure will be seen when it is considered that, should this bill become a law, the Republican party might carry the State by 12,000 majority, and yet under its provisions the Democracy would still control both branches of the General Assembly, thus giving to a minority in pless of guilty or not guilty, a distinction being made between misdemeanors and felonies. But these changes are of comparatively minor importance and do not effect the main principle of the bill.

Section 20 provides that each Clerk and Sheriff, on the first Mondays of December, March, June and October, shall pay over to the County Treasury all moneys received by them for fees or charges for official charges of every description, taking the Treasurer's receipt therefor, and a registry of these receipts is kept open to public inspection. A separate and distinct account is to be kept of these amounts, and they are to constitute and be known as the County Officers' Fund, and if any surplus remains of it after paying the salaries that are thereafter provided, it is to be merged into the general county revenue. The same officers are required at the end of every quarter to pay over to the Treasurer all fines, forfeitures, unclaimed witness fees, jury fees, &c., that go to the Common School Fund.

Section 21 provides that all costs that are taxed under the provisions of the act shall be and remain a lien on the real estate of the party liable until paid.

Section 22 provides punishment by fine, imprisonment and forfeiture of office, for tax-constractive fees or any that are not plainly and definitely allowed by the act to be taxed.

Section 23 requires the Treasurer to make a report every quarter showing the amount in his hands at the close of the preceding month belonging to each separated fund, and any overdraws that may have been made, and that he furnish to the county papers copies of his report for publication, and they are allowed two dollars for inserting it.

Section 24 provides that the Clerk and Sheriff shall each receive for all the services that they are required by law to perform an annual compensation of fifteen hundred dollars.

Section 25 allows to the Clerk and Sheriff an additional sum of one hundred dollars for every one thousand inhabitants over ten thousand, and twenty per cent. on the amount of their own fees, which have been taxed, collected and paid over to the Treasurer in accordance with the requirements of the act.

Section 26 requires the Clerk to issue executions and fee bills after the expiration of six months from the time that they are taxed and due for the collection of all costs then remaining unpaid.

Section 27 requires the Clerk and Sheriff to make a quarterly report under oath (as all reports are to be made) showing the amounts respectively charged by each, the amounts collected, the names of the parties who are liable, and the balance due from each party.

Section 28 allows the Auditor fifteen hundred dollars per annum, and an additional one hundred dollars per annum for every one thousand inhabitants in excess of ten thousand, (these allowances to all the officers being for deputy hire,) and also the fees and commissions allowed him for his services in managing the School Fund of the county. The School Fund is to be distributed in the several counties.

By Section 29 the Treasurer is allowed fifteen hundred dollars per annum, and the sum of seventy-five dollars for every one thousand inhabitants in excess of ten thousand, (these allowances to all the officers being for deputy hire,) and also the fees and commissions allowed him for his services in managing the School Fund of the county.

By Section 30 makes it the duty of the Board of County Commissioners, at every regular session, to make an allowance to the Clerk and Sheriff of one fourth of their annual salary out of the officers' fund, but if the amount collected and paid over to the Treasurer by these officers does not reach in the aggregate a sum at the rate of one thousand dollars per annum, the Board are authorized to make up the deficit, not going beyond that point.

Section 31 provides for a quarterly report by the County Treasurer to the County Board, showing in detail the condition of each fund in his hands.

Section 32 fixes the basis by which the population of each county is to be determined, as by the last preceding census taken under the authority of the United States.

33 makes it the duty of the Supreme Judges of the State, within thirty days after the passage of the act, to prescribe rules and forms, as nearly as may be, the fees that may be taxed under the provisions of the act, by the Clerks and Sheriffs.

Section 34 provides for the successor of any county officer collecting fees remaining unpaid at the expiration of the term of his predecessor.

Having taken an oath to support the Constitution of the State when we took our seats, we could not sit silently by, and suffer the final accomplishment by the Democracy of this unjust, unconstitutional and revolutionary measure, without

feeling that we would be chargeable as accessories to the crime; and to prevent it, we resigned our seats as members of the Legislature.

We confidently appeal to the intelligent, law-abiding people of Indiana to sustain our action.

G. W. Friedley, Fielding Beeler, Edward King, James H. Roddell, Oliver M. Wilson, W. W. Conner, Wm. H. Calkins, Anthony E. Gordon, Benj. F. Hill, A. M. Kennedy, John S. Knight, John R. Millikan, Geo. A. Netherton, W. P. Rhodes, David Sayers, Asahel Stone, Henry A. White, Martin Wood,

W. St. John, Hiram S. Biggs, W. B. Butterworth, Edward Calkins, Wm. H. Calkins, Anthony E. Gordon, Benj. F. Hill, T. M. Kirkpatrick, T. S. Lines, Elam Myers, W. Rawles, S. D. Sabine, Jas. P. Snodgrass, Wm. T. Strickland, Benj. F. Williams, John E. Woodward,

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