

member and master which you acquired in a respectable lodge in this city, you will unquestionably reflect back on the fraternity the lustre which you derive from it.

I shall now proceed to discharge a duty which has been required from me by the Grand Lodge, and I perform it with no common pleasure; as evidence of my personal esteem for you; of my high respect for that distinguished body, and of my sincere devotion to the cause of free-masonry, I shall now invest you with the insignia of your office, and I most humbly supplicate the Supreme Architect of the Heaven and of the Earth to smile on the proceedings of this day, and to render them auxiliary to the holy cause of benevolence, morality, and religion, and subservient to the best interests of the human race.

Indiana Legislature.

IN SENATE—December 19.

Mr. Ewing introduced a bill in addition to the act for the settlement of decedents estates; which was read, and on motion, ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Ewing introduced a joint resolution relative to taxing lands; which was read the first time.

The engrossed bill relative to the agent of the 3 per cent fund, was read a third time and passed.

The engrossed bill extending the jurisdiction of Justices of the Peace, after undergoing various amendments, was indefinitely postponed.

Dec. 21. The bill allowing compensation to the associate judges, was read a second time, and laid on the table.

Mr. De Pauw from the select committee to whom that subject was referred, made the following report:

The select committee to whom was referred so much of the Governor's Message as relates to the poor, beg leave to report that they have had the subject under consideration, and are of opinion that it is expedient, pursuant to the humane provisions of the constitution of this state, to make provision by law for the purchase of one farm in each judicial Circuit, and recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the committee to whom was referred that part of the Governor's Message relating to the poor be instructed to report a bill providing for the purchase of one quarter section of land with moderate improvements thereon within each judicial Circuit, with other provisions as may be necessary to carry into effect the humane principles of our constitution alluded to by the Governor in his said Message: Provided, the cost of said quarter section of land shall not exceed three hundred dollars; and the same was read, and ordered to lie on the table until to-morrow.

Dec. 22. Mr. Watts introduced a bill for the protection of rights and privileges granted by statute, or acquired thereunder, which was read the first time.

Dec. 23. Mr. Ewing from the select committee to whom was referred the several joint resolutions relative to the purchasers of public lands, now reported a resolution on the subject, which was read the first time.

Dec. 27. The resolution offered by Mr. Stapp, instructing the judiciary committee to prepare and report a bill repealing the law for the appointment of circuit prosecuting attorneys, and authorizing the appointment of county prosecutors by the circuit court, was now called up, and negatived—Messrs. Ewing, Pennington, and Stapp voting in the affirmative.

Mr. Rariden introduced a bill altering the mode of appointing prosecuting attorneys.

The engrossed bill for the apportionment of Senators and Representatives of the General Assembly, was read a third time and passed by the following vote:

YEAS—Messrs. Chambers, Cotton, De Pauw, Givens, Graham of Clark, Gass, Gregory, Montgomery, and Oliver—10.

NOES—Messrs. Colman, Ewing, Graham of Jackson, Rariden, Smiley, Stapp, and Watts—8.

The engrossed bill for the relief of the heirs of Benjamin Warner, deceased, and the engrossed bill supplemental to the act declaring Blue river a navigable stream, were read a third time and passed.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Dec. 21. Mr. Beckes, from the select committee, to whom was referred that part of the Governor's Message which relates to asylums for the poor, submitted the following report, to wit:

Mr. Speaker—The committee to whom was referred so much of the Governor's Message as recommends the establishment of public asylums for the support of the poor, report—

That they have attentively examined the subject submitted by the House to their consideration. The committee are perfectly aware that to secure suitable provision for the poor, is a point in legislation carefully attended to in every civilized and christian country. We see a pledge to this effect in the protecting principle upon which governments are based. But the laws for this, as for other

purposes of social life, must be adapted to the situation and circumstances of the community for which they are intended. In countries overflowing with inhabitants, and where from a variety of causes, great inequalities as to riches and rank in society unfortunately prevail, and paupers consequently become exceedingly numerous, there it is that work houses, hospitals, asylums, poor houses, and many other public institutions of a similar character, have been considered proper and useful for the wretched victims of penury and affliction. The state of Indiana, however, is by no means a country of this description. On the contrary, it is just in the vigour of youth, its population is not at present, nor will it be for many years to come, inconveniently crowded; the means of subsistence are abundant and easily obtained. The pride of overgrown wealth in a few, its invidious distinctions, and the consequent distress and poverty of the many, are as yet unknown. Comparatively speaking, we can scarcely be said to have any paupers. The proportion is less than one to a thousand of our population. It is true, the smallness of the number does not affect the principle, that each is sacredly bound to contribute his share to the welfare of all, but it proves the impolicy of incurring the expense of erecting and supporting extensive and numerous public establishments for the accomplishment of an object so limited in extent, and so easily and perfectly attainable without them. Our present system of poor laws has been in operation since the commencement of the government, and is found upon experience, wisely adapted to the situation of our country. The few paupers we have, are comfortably supported, in a prudent and economical manner, in different places and by respectable people. Were they collected together in poor houses, their maintenance would be more expensive, their situation more degraded, and their poverty more exposed and humiliating.—Settled, as under our statute laws they now are, in different parts of the several counties, these poor people become, as it were, members of the respective families of their more fortunate fellow-citizens with whom they reside; and their afflictions are alleviated, and in a considerable degree forgotten, amidst the comforts and conveniences by which they are surrounded.

The committee, therefore, are unanimously of opinion, that the establishment of asylums in the different counties or other districts of the state, for the support of paupers, as recommended in the Governor's Message, would not at present be expedient.

Mr. Pepper presented the following resolution for the consideration of the House:

Resolved, That the committee on education be instructed to report a bill authorising the Trustees of school sections in each Congressional township, after obtaining the consent of a majority of the legal voters in such township in such manner as the committee may think proper, to provide by law to lease the said school sections for the term of ninety-nine years.

Mr. Riley moved to amend the same by striking out the words "the term of," and inserting "terms not exceeding," which was adopted.

Mr. Hillis moved to lay the resolution on the table, which was negative.

Mr. Worth moved to amend the resolution so as to authorise the fee simple of said lands to be sold, which was negatived.

On motion of Mr. Palmer, the further consideration of the resolution was postponed until Friday next.

Dec. 22. Bills were also reported, by Mr. Keen, to amend an act "to licence and regulate taverns"—by the same gentleman, to amend the act regulating the interest on money in the state of Indiana—by Mr. Sims to amend the act to incorporate Medical Societies—and by Mr. Fitzgerald, to amend the act entitled "an act to regulate the militia of the state of Indiana."

Mr. Craig presented the following resolution for the consideration of the House:

Resolved, That the committee on military affairs be instructed to inquire into the expediency of repealing all laws imposing a fine to a greater amount than \$3 00 for the non compliance with the provisions of the militia law of this state, and whether all laws, imposing a fine in such cases without the intervention of a jury, be not contrary to the fifth section of the first article of the constitution of this state.

Mr. Palmer moved to add the following as an amendment:

"And also the expediency of repealing so much of the militia law, as imposes a fine on privates for the lack of uniforms or equipments, except in volunteer companies."

The resolution and amendment were laid on the table.

Dec. 23. The bill to amend the act regulating the interest on money, was read a second time, and then, on motion of Mr. Boon, its further consideration was indefinitely postponed.

The engrossed joint resolution rela-

tive to the National Road from Wheeling to the Mississippi, was read a third time and passed.

LIST OF ACTS

Passed at the present session of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana.

1. An act legalizing the marriage of William Wright of Floyd county.
2. An act authorising the secretary of state to procure a letter book for the use of the state.
3. An act for the relief of Alexander Dick.

4. An act providing for contesting the election of governor and lieutenant governor.

5. An act for the relief of Benjamin F. Barker and Henry Waggoner.

6. An act to amend the act, entitled an act declaring certain streams therein named public highways.

7. An act for the formation of a new county out of the counties of Wabash and Montgomery.

8. An act legalizing the proceedings of the boards of justices of Vermilion and Hamilton counties, for the year 1825.

9. An act to improve the navigation of Laugher creek.

CONGRESSIONAL.

IN SENATE.

THURSDAY, Dec. 22, 1825.

Mr. HENDRICKS submitted the following resolutions for consideration:

Resolved, That the Select Committee on Roads and Canals be instructed to inquire into the expediency of aiding the state of Indiana in opening a canal communication between the waters of Lake Erie and the Wabash River, by putting at the disposal of her Legislature an appropriation of public lands contiguous to the site of such canal.

Resolved, also, that the memorial of the Legislature of that State, on the aforesaid subject, and now on the files of the Senate, be referred to the same committee.

On motion of Mr. EATON, it was

Resolved, That the Secretary of War inform the Senate of the appropriation of last year for removing snags, sawyers, and other obstructions, from the Ohio, has been disbursed: who has been appointed agent, or contractor, and their place or places of residence, and the nature of the contract made: how it has been executed, and whatever else it may be in his power to communicate in relation to said appropriation; and, also, how, and to what extent, the contemplated objects have been, or are likely to be, executed.

On motion of Mr. NOBLE, it was

Resolved, That the Committee on the

Militia be instructed to inquire into the expediency of providing, by law, for

clothing the militia when called into the

service of the United States.

TUESDAY, Dec. 27.

Mr. HARRISON presented the memorial of the owners, masters, and pilots, of steam vessels, employed in the navigation of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers, suggesting some alterations in the law enacted for improving the navigation of those rivers.

The resolutions submitted by Mr. HENDRICKS, proposing an inquiry concerning the opening of a Canal between the waters of Lake Erie and the Wabash river, were taken up and agreed to.

Mr. NOBLE's resolution, relating to the clothing the Militia, when called into the service of the United States, was taken up and agreed to.

THURSDAY, Dec. 29.

Mr. JOHNSON, of Kentucky, submitted the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Committee on Military Affairs be instructed to inquire into the expediency of extending the time for reissuing and locating the Virginia Military Land Warrants, for Revolutionary services, upon the Virginia Continental State Line.

Mr. HENDRICKS presented the memorial of sundry citizens of Indiana and Illinois, praying an appropriation to erect bridges over the mail route between St. Louis and Louisville; and petitions of a similar nature were presented by Mr. BARTON and Mr. BENTON, from inhabitants of Missouri, &c.; all of which were referred.

The resolution for procuring twenty-four copies of Ingoldsby's Abridgments of the Acts of Congress, for the use of the Senate, was read a third time, & passed;

As was, also, the bill "concerning the transportation of the mail between Vincennes and St. Louis," which was sent to the other House for concurrence.

FRIDAY, Dec. 30.

Mr. HENDRICKS presented the petition of a company of Rangers, praying that a law may be passed, by which they may receive the pay to which they are entitled. Referred.

On motion of Mr. NOBLE, the memorial of the General Assembly of Indiana,

presented in 1823, relative to the estab-

lishment of a Circuit Court in that State,

was referred to the Committee on the

Judiciary.

Mr. ROWAN submitted the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Committee on

Commerce be instructed to inquire into

the expediency of establishing a new Collection District, to include the town of Louisville, and of making the said town a port of entry and delivery.

Mr. HARRISON submitted the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Committee on Commerce be instructed to inquire into the expediency of establishing a new Collection District, on the Ohio River, to include the City of Cincinnati, and of making the said city a port of entry and delivery.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

December 22.

On motion of Mr. WICKLIFFE, of Kent, it was

Resolved, That the Committee upon Roads and Canals be instructed to inquire into the expediency of authorizing a subscription, in behalf of the U. States, of a portion of the capital stock in the Louisville and Portland Canal Company.

Mr. ALSTON, of N. C. submitted the following:

Resolved, That a Committee be appointed to inquire into the expediency of altering the election laws of the States so as to provide that no election shall take place for Members of the House of Representatives of the United States until the term of service has expired for which they had been elected.

The resolution was agreed to, and the following gentlemen were appointed a committee accordingly:

Mr. ALSTON, Mr. OWEN, Mr. CARTER, Mr. HERRICK, Mr. PEARCE, & Mr. MARVIN.

Tuesday, December 27, 1825.

Mr. TEST, of Indiana, offered the following:

Resolved, That the Committee on Roads and Canals be instructed to inquire into the expediency of establishing a general system of Internal improvement, embracing Canals, Roads, & Railways, with a fund to be derived from the sale of Public Lands or otherwise, adequate to carry into effect such system, to be distributed among the several States, if required by them, agreeably to their population.

A division being called on this resolution—before the counting was finished,

Mr. TEST (the mover) observed, that the object of the resolution was probably not understood. It was, in substance, no more than the revival of a similar one which had passed at the last session, and under which a report had been made by the Committee on Roads and Canals.—It does not go to commit the House, said he, but asks only that the Committee shall inquire into the subject. The House had already agreed to the principle of the resolution, by establishing a Standing Committee on the subject, but, unless some such resolution passed, the Committee of Roads and Canals had no ground on which to proceed in its inquiries. He thought the motion was calculated to do good, and he did not see that it could do any possible harm. He had waited some time, hoping that it would have been proposed by some more able Member, but the season was gliding on, and he was unwilling that further delay should take place.

Mr. COCKE, of Tennessee, observed, that the resolution of the gentleman contemplated a very important measure.

The House was then thin, and he appealed to the gentleman himself whether it would be proper to pass it at this time.

On his own part, Mr. C. said, he had no objection that the Committee of Roads and Canals should make the inquiry proposed. On the contrary, he thought it was advisable they should do so; but he would suggest to the honorable mover, whether it would not be better to lay it on the table until the Members of the House should be more generally in their places.

Mr. TEST assented, and the resolution was laid on the table accordingly.

Post on the Northwest Coast.

On opening a Message, received from the President, the Speaker announced the same to be of a confidential nature. The galleries were cleared, and the doors closed, and so remained for some time. When they were opened again, it was ascertained that the injunction of secrecy in regard to its proceedings had been so far removed as to allow the publication of the Message of the President, which was as follows:

Washington, 27th Dec. 1825.

To the House of Representatives of the U. States.

In compliance with a resolution of the House of Representatives, of the 20th inst. I now transmit a copy of the Message of President Jefferson, to both

Houses of Congress, of the 18th January, 1803, recommending an exploring expedition across this continent. It will be perceived, on the perusal of this Message, that it was confidential; for which

reason, the copy of it is now communicated in the same manner; leaving to the judgment of the House to determine whether any adequate reason yet remains for withholding it from publication.

As was, also, the bill "concerning the transportation of the mail between Vincennes and St. Louis," which was sent to the other House for concurrence.

FRIDAY, Dec. 30.

Mr. HENDRICKS presented the petition of a company of Rangers, praying that a law may be passed, by which they may receive the pay to which they are entitled. Referred.

On motion of Mr. NOBLE, the memorial of the General Assembly of Indiana,

presented in 1823, relative to the estab-

lishment of a Circuit Court in that State,