

JOURNAL

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE,

STATE OF TEXAS.

BY AUTHORITY.

AUSTIN:

PRINTED AT THE OFFICE OF THE "STATE GAZETTE."

1866.

Mr. Hancock moved the House proceed to the election of a Speaker. Carried.

Mr. Lund put in nomination the name of Hon. N. M. Burford, of Dallas.

Mr. Hancock, upon solicitation, moved to reconsider his motion to proceed to the election of Speaker, which was carried; and Mr. Brady moved the postponement of the election of Speaker till to-morrow at 11 o'clock a. m. Carried.

When, on motion of Mr. Kyle, the House adjourned until 11 o'clock a. m. to-morrow.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }

AUSTIN, Aug. 7, 1866. }

House met pursuant to adjournment. Roll called. Quorum present.

The following gentlemen came forward, presented their credentials and took their seats, to-wit:

Messrs. S. J. Richardson, of Harrison and Panola.

A. D. Kent, of Jefferson.

M. S. Munson, of Galveston and Brazoria.

W. H. Wheelock, of Robertson.

G. A. Garcia, of El Paso.

W. H. Hooks, of Red River.

Israel Worsham, of Grimes.

E. J. Gurley, of McLennan.

On motion of Mr. Reeves, the House proceeded to the election of a Speaker.

Nominations being in order, Mr. Reeves nominated Hon. N. M. Burford, of Dallas county, and Mr. Munson nominated Hon. Ashbel Smith, of Harris county.

Messrs. Munson, Reeves and Giddings were appointed tellers.

On the ballot being taken, Mr. Burford was found to have received 39 votes, and Mr. Smith 39 votes.

Mr. Burford having received a majority of all the votes cast, was declared duly elected Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The Secretary of State appointed Messrs. Smith of Harris, Reeves and Munson to inform Mr. Burford of his election, and to conduct him to the Chair.

Whereupon, the Speaker elect addressed the House as follows:

Gentlemen—In accepting the distinguished position to which your suffrage has elevated me, permit me, in advance, to notify

you that I have no experience in legislation, and therefore shall be dependant upon you, to give me counsel and advice in my efforts to discharge the arduous duties that will be required of me, as the Presiding Officer of this House. If I were not confident that you would generously aid me, in all my efforts to preserve order and decorum, and facilitate the dispatch of business, I would unhesitatingly refuse to accept the proffered honor.

It is my humble opinion that the future destiny of the people of Texas, for many years to come, is more dependent upon this than any Legislature ever convened since annexation.

Perhaps it may be possible for us to pursue a line of policy that will prove acceptable to all the departments of the General Government; but, should we fail in this, we can at least preserve our self-respect, and win the approbation of the good men of all sections, by directing the legislation of the State in such a manner as to do full justice to every class of our citizens. Whilst engaged in making laws, we should keep constantly before us the solemn declaration, that "The Constitution of the United States, and the laws made in pursuance thereof, are the supreme law of the land." By acting in obedience to this declaration, we cannot materially err in our efforts to act in harmony with the General Government.

In conclusion, permit me to return to you my most sincere thanks, and assure you that it shall be my constant effort to make you a good Presiding Officer.