

JOURNAL

OF THE

House of Representatives

OF THE

STATE OF TEXAS,

BEING THE

First Session of the Sixteenth Legislature,

BEGUN AND HELD AT THE

CITY OF AUSTIN, JAN. 14, 1879.



(Mr. Coleman in the chair.)

At 2 o'clock and 35 minutes the House was called to order.

Mr. Cochran sent up to the clerk's desk the following communication, which was read:

*Hon. W. S. Coleman, Speaker, pro tempore :*

SIR—You will please have the clerk to read the following, to wit:

The *State Gazette* of yesterday evening seemed to reflect upon the ability of Speakers Bonner and Hon. Guy M. Bryan. I take this opportunity to state that both of these distinguished gentlemen are able and correct presiding officers, and that I was never called by either of them to the chair for the purposes indicated in that portion of the *Gazette's* article on the speakership. They did *not* need any such relief as therein indicated.

Respectfully,

JOHN H. COCHRAN.

At the raps of the gavel the members arose in their places and subscribed to the oath as a body. Roll called; absent—Mr. Leonard.

The speaker *pro tempore* announced a constitutional quorum of the members present, and that the election of speaker was in order.

Mr. Callaway nominated Hon. M. D. K. Taylor, of Marion. Mr. Gibson nominated Hon. John H. Cochran, of Dallas. Mr. Jones, of Bastrop, nominated Hon. Guy M. Bryan, of Galveston.

The speaker *pro tempore* appointed Messrs. Callaway, Jones, of Bastrop, and Gibson as tellers.

Mr. Brown, of Gregg, moved that a majority of all the votes cast be required to elect. The motion prevailed.

Upon casting up the first ballot it appeared that Mr. Taylor received 41 votes; Mr. Cochran received 40 votes, and Mr. Bryan received 9 votes. No one having received a majority of all the votes, the speaker *pro tempore* declared there was no election and ordered another ballot.

Upon casting up the second ballot, it appeared that Mr. Taylor received 39 votes; Mr. Cochran received 44 and Mr. Bryan received 8 votes.

No one having received a majority of all the votes the speaker *pro tempore* declared there was no election and ordered the House to proceed to another ballot.

Mr. Flewellen withdrew the name of Hon. M. D. K. Taylor.

Mr. Johnson, of Shelby, nominated Hon. George R. Reeves, of Grayson.

At the request of Mr. Reeves, Mr. Johnson, of Shelby, withdrew his name.

Mr. Baker moved that the House take a recess until 7:30 P. M. The motion was withdrawn.

Mr. Callaway nominated Mr. Coleman.

At the request of Mr. Coleman, Mr. Callaway withdrew his name.

Mr. Baker then renewed his motion to take a recess until 7:30 P. M. Lost.

Upon casting up the third ballot, it appeared that Mr. Cochran received 57 votes, Mr. Bryan 26; Mr. Taylor, of Marion, 4; and Mr. Smith of Harris, 1.

Mr. Cochran having received a majority of all the votes cast, the speaker *pro tempore* declared him duly and constitutionally elected speaker of the House of Representatives of the Sixteenth Legislature.

The speaker *pro tempore* appointed Messrs. Taylor, of Marion, and Bryan a committee to escort the honorable speaker elect to the chair.

Mr. Cochran, upon taking the chair, addressed the House as follows:

*Gentlemen of the House of Representatives of the Sixteenth Legislature of Texas:*

Although profoundly sensible of the arduous duties and great responsibilities attending the faithful discharge of the duties incumbent upon me as your presiding officer, I cannot refrain from expressing to you my heartfelt thanks for the honor you have, by your votes conferred on me by electing me speaker of this House. For while it is a position of *honor*, it is also, in a higher degree, *one* to which much arduous labor and great responsibility attaches. Therefore, gentlemen, while I thank you sincerely for the *honor*, I humbly invoke your forbearance, aid and assistance in the honest and faithful discharge of my duty as your speaker. As reference was made upon the floor a few moments ago that the newspapers of north Texas had urged my claims to the speakership upon sectional grounds. I will say in reply to this, that I, like my distinguished and eloquent friend from Galveston, Mr. Bryan, who has just eloquently remarked that he, in his "feelings represented all Texas;" that I, in the discharge of my duties as speaker of this House, shall know no north, no south, no east, no west, but *one Texas*, and her *one* and indivisible. My only aim and desire *is*, and *shall be* to aid in making your deliberations a success; that your labors may, as far as possible, meet the expectations and receive the approbation of the great people of Texas.

As brevity upon such occasions as this is most desirable, I shall now enter upon the discharge of the duties incumbent upon me as speaker of this House, by again thanking you for the honor and invoking your forbearance and support in the faithful discharge of the duties which I now assume by declaring the further organization of the House to be now in order.