

**JOURNAL**  
OF  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

BEING THE

**REGULAR SESSION TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE,**

BEGUN AND HELD AT

**THE CITY OF AUSTIN, TEXAS, JANUARY 8, 1895.**



**AUSTIN:**

**BEN C. JONES & CO., STATE PRINTERS.**

**1895**

## ELECTION OF SPEAKER.

The Chair announced the first business to be the election of Speaker, and that nominations are now in order.

Seth P. Mills nominated Hon. T. S. Smith of Hill county.

D. C. Giddings, Jr., seconded the nomination of Mr. Smith.

L. L. Rhodes nominated Hon. T. J. Floyd of Bastróp county.

L. T. Dashiell seconded the nomination of Mr. Smith.

J. G. Burney seconded the nomination of Mr. Floyd.

O. R. Morrison seconded the nomination of Mr. Smith.

T. R. Watkins seconded the nomination of Mr. Floyd.

T. T. D. Andrews seconded the nomination of Mr. Smith.

Charles J. Stubbs seconded the nomination of Mr. Smith.

There being no further nominations the Secretary declared the nominations closed and directed that the ballot be taken.

Messrs. J. H. Beall of Nolan county, J. D. Bass of Camp county, A. F. Brigance of Grimes county and F. W. Seabury of Cameron county were appointed to take up the ballots.

Messrs. C. F. Thomas of McLennan county, R. L. Ragsdale of Denton county and J. H. Bailey of DeWitt county were appointed tellers to count the vote.

Upon counting the vote it appeared that Mr. Smith had received 102 votes and that Mr. Floyd had received 22 votes.

Mr. Floyd thanked those who had voted for him and moved that the election of Mr. Smith be made unanimous.

Mr. Cocke seconded the motion of Mr. Floyd.

The motion prevailed by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Smith having received a majority of all the votes cast the secretary declared him duly and constitutionally elected Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Twenty-fourth Legislature.

Messrs. Gough and Armistead were appointed to conduct the Speaker-elect to the chair.

The secretary then introduced him to the House as Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Twenty-fourth Legislature and handed him the gavel as an emblem of authority.

Mr. Smith then addressed the house as follows:

Mr. Secretary and members of the House:

I trust that it will not be thought formal when I say that I voice the impulses of my nature, and speak the throbbings of my heart, when I say that I am profoundly grateful and highly honored by the compliment and position placed upon me. I appreciate the responsibilities of this office, and shall endeavor to discharge them faithfully, aided by your counsel, with the best judgment I possess. I wish to say to my friends that a man never had truer, more loyal or more zealous friends advocating his cause or prosecuting his interests. They have not been place-hunters; they have not, even in our closest and most private counsels, discussed what they wanted, or the name of any person whom they preferred for any other position, but their sole object has been, and in a noble and manly way they have pushed forward, to accomplish my election to this office in an upright, honest and Democratic manner. To my opponents, let me say that they have been courteous, kind and fair in their canvass. They were my personal and political friends in the beginning of this contest, and the high and upright way in which they withdrew binds them more closely to me, and elevates them in my estimation as friends, as Democrats and as statesmen. Realizing their superior fitness for this position, I spoke kindly of them to my supporters, and placed my supporters on notice that these gentlemen must be treated in the manner as indicated just now. They fought their battles well, and I wish to say to their supporters that in their loyalty and zeal

they stood faithfully by their chieftains, and when the time came that they should leave them, like manly and noble men they have come to us with regrets, and with frankness stated their determination that their chieftains should retire, and that they would come into our caucus and our councils; and we then assured them that the doors would be open, and that they would be received into full fellowship, and they came with us.

To the Populists I have stated that I would treat them fairly, and while I never notified a single one that I was a candidate, and never received a proposition from them to trade or combine, I have stated to my friends that they should be treated fairly, but that when it came to the formation of committees I would throw the responsibility upon the Democratic party. I return to them my thanks for the high honor they have paid me on this occasion, and to all of the members of the House I say that there will be no favors shown upon the floor. Each man shall have an equal opportunity to get the attention of the Speaker.

To the people and to the Democrats of Texas I say that the responsibilities of legislation shall be laid upon the Democrats. Having the majority that we have, in the formation of committees I shall place the responsibilities of legislation in the hands of Democrats. In my judgment we are confronted with the gravest conditions and the heaviest responsibilities that have been before the Legislature of this state in many years, and believing in my party, and trusting in its ability to meet these issues, and to unravel these complications, and to land Texas on the high road of success and prosperity, I shall place the interests of our State, and the responsibilities of the present condition upon the shoulders of the Democrats in this House; so that if good laws are enacted by this Legislature the Democratic party shall have the reward; and on the other hand, if bad laws are enacted they shall bear the blame, and with their rec-

ord they shall return home and confront their constituency. At the same time I say to the Populists and to the Republicans that I shall treat them fairly, and shall also give them an opportunity to make a record, so they can return to their constituency with the responsibilities that have been placed upon them, and be judged by the manner in which they have handled the trusts placed in their hands.

I have stated that with but few exceptions I shall be governed in the appointment of clerks, porters and pages by the good judgment and endorsement of the members of this House. The exceptions are in those cases wherein the officers are especially assigned to my assistance.

It is my wish that the members address to me, in sealed envelopes, a brief statement as to the various committees upon which they feel themselves the best suited for service. It is my desire that the bulk of legislation be done in the committee rooms, where I believe it should be done, and let the polishing and trimming be done in the House.

I hope it may be your efforts to make a record rather than a display, and asking you for your forbearance in my shortcomings, and inviting your counsel and co-operation, I accept this high office with its trusts and responsibilities, and again thank you for your friendship and your favors.