

**JOURNAL  
OF THE  
HOUSE OF TEXAS  
TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE  
1897**

## ELECTION OF SPEAKER.

Hon. R. H. Ward of Travis county nominated Hon. L. T. Dashiell of Leon county.

Hon. U. J. Morton of Erath county nominated Hon. J. G. Burney of Kerr county.

The nomination of Mr. Dashiell was seconded by Hon. J. H. Bailey of De Witt, Hon. T. S. Garrison of Shelby, Hon. John D. Pitts of Hill, Hon. W. C. McKamy of Dallas, and Hon. W. H. Freeman of Cooke.

The nomination of Mr. Burney was seconded by Hon. Z. B. Stokes of Cherokee.

There being no other nominations, the Hon. Secretary appointed as tellers to take up the ballots the following: W. R. Bounds, W. W. Dies, O. T. Maxwell and J. D. Childs.

To count the ballots: F. W. Seabury, J. F. Wolters, T. B. Williams.

The Secretary announced the result as follows:

Hon. L. T. Dashiell received 120 votes.

Hon. J. G. Burney received 8 votes. Mr. Burney rose in his seat and moved to make the election of Mr. Dashiell unanimous by a rising vote.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Cureton, and prevailed unanimously.

The Secretary then announced that Mr. Dashiell had been chosen Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Twenty-fifth Legislature, and appointed Hon. R. H. Ward of Travis county and Hon. T. S. Garrison of Shelby county to escort the Speaker-elect to the chair.

Hon. J. W. Madden, Secretary of State, then delivered the gavel to the Speaker-elect, who spoke as follows: "Mr. Secretary, and Gentlemen of the

House of Representatives:  
"The position to which you have elected me involves both a personal

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honor and a great responsibility. For the honor I sincerely thank you. The responsibility I am unable to bear unless your gracious aid is accorded me. Confidently do I invoke that aid in the interest of our State whose magnificent citizenship we represent.

Recently and in a decisive manner the voters of Texas have endorsed the administration of public affairs by the democracy of our State, and expressed their confidence in the sincerity of the party's declaration of principles.

We have asserted that the useless expenditure of the people's money is a public crime, and promised a continuance of honesty and economy in the administration of the government.

We have seen the laws of the land evaded because of unnecessary and purely technical provisions, and guaranteed such changes as will establish justice and secure its manifold blessings.

We have been brought to an appreciation of the matchless resources of our State, and have pledged the enactment of laws that will encourage the investment of capital, protect the fruits of industry, and secure protection to all races in the enjoyment of life and liberty and in the pursuit of happiness.

We have plighted our honor to further develop the magnificent public school system of our State, including the University and its branches, and truthfully declared that the Democratic party is the champion of that higher civilization which can only be at-

tained by a general diffusion of knowledge.

The importance of these declarations is emphasized when we realize that the record made by this Legislature will determine the result of future political contests. The people of Texas will not be deceived, nor will they permit their interests to be trifled with. The situation demands of us the exercise of conservatism, unselfish cooperation and fidelity to public pledges.

Into our hands has been temporarily committed the destiny of a great commonwealth, whose history is an inspiration and whose future is teeming with magnificent possibilities. So great is the trust, so grave the responsibility, that we are constrained to pause for a moment and in the solemnity of the occasion invoke the aidance of an overruling Providence. Devoted to the State of my nativity, thrilled by her traditions, and mindful of her welfare, I pledge my cooperation as presiding officer in your deliberations. Let our highest aim be to protect the honor of Texas; our one ambition to contribute to the prosperity of her people; and our coveted reward the gratitude of a happy and patriotic constituency."

The Chief Clerk pro tem., under direction of the Secretary, administered the oath of office to the Speaker-elect, who at once assumed the duties of his office and declared the House ready to proceed with business.