

JOURNAL
OF THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE
REGULAR SESSION
OF THE
THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE OF TEXAS

CONVENED AT THE CITY OF AUSTIN, JANUARY 8, 1907

AND

ADJOURNED WITHOUT DAY, APRIL 12, 1907

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



AUSTIN, TEXAS:
VON BOECKMANN-JONES COMPANY, PRINTERS.
1907.

ELECTION OF SPEAKER.

The Honorable Secretary then announced that the next business in order was the election of a Speaker.

Hon. B. F. Gafford, of Grayson county, nominated Hon. Thos. B. Love, of

Dallas county, and in making the nomination, said:

Mr. Secretary and Members of the House:

On account of the indissoluble bonds of friendship existing between a certain member of this House and myself—on account of my admiration for his ability as a lawyer and a statesman—on account of my high regard for his adaptability to the high office of Speaker, it has fallen to my lot to ask you to do collectively now what I have often asked you to do individually.

Of the many important duties devolving upon us as members of the House of Representatives, few, if any, are more important or are of more interest to us than the duty of selecting our presiding officer. Quite different indeed is the case with that branch of the law-making department which sits in the other end of this building. They are relieved of this responsibility and rest contented with the splendid selection the people have made for them. But under the Constitution, we are vested with the prerogative of selecting our own presiding officer. We should, therefore, be particularly careful to select one who is competent and impartial; who is broad-gauged and honorable; who is acceptable to the people and creditable to this body.

Contemplating the almost limitless power of the presiding officer of this body, and knowing the dangerous result of a despotic use of it, I am thoroughly convinced that we should select for that place an upright, an honorable, a fair-minded man conversant with the principles of law and familiar with our present statutory provisions. We should select one whom we know to soar far above the little jealousies and backbiting idiosyncracies of little men. And, above all, we should select one who is thoroughly composed mentally and who in his opinions of statecraft is heart and hand with the people of Texas.

Recent experiences in the holdings of presiding officers of legislative bodies—both State and Federal—have opened the eyes of the citizenship of our country as to the prerogatives and powers of presiding officers and the man who usurps that authority for mercenary motives or to thwart the expressed will of the people must account to an offended public.

We at this very minute represent a people who are expecting this almost unanimously Democratic Legislature to reflect the will of Democratic Texas. They have expressed themselves in Democratic platform and as their servants

doing their bidding paramount with us must be the issues set out in the Democratic platform upon which we were elected. I have worse than contempt for a man who pretends to represent a constituency and forgets that he is yet their servant. "The laborer is worthy of his hire," but he is no worthier.

As the chief servant of this House, serving the people of this greatest of States, the man we are about to elect Speaker will, by virtue of the prerogatives of the high office he will fill, through the arrangement of committees and his general direction and control of the business of this body, exercise a decided influence in our deliberations and can thereby be of great and lasting benefit to the State in permitting the enactment of wise, judicious and beneficial laws to the people of Texas; or he can stand in the way of the righteous or sit in the seat of the scornful and act the part of the despot and bring down upon his head the righteous and just condemnation of an outraged people.

This establishes and determines the importance of the official position of Speaker more clearly and more forcibly than the promises of pelf or kindnesses or recognitions, or other advantages. This scope of influence, the character and personality of our selection for Speaker should determine within us a certainty to select the very best material presented us for the high position we are now about to fill with some member from our midst.

Besides being a splendid parliamentarian and having many other good qualifications, our Speaker should be a good lawmaker, a successful maker of good laws, laws that stand the crucial test, not only of the highest court in Texas, but when the calcium light is turned on them before that higher, but not wiser, tribunal that sits at the seat of the national government they may stand a constitutional test there also.

We should have for Speaker of the Texas House a man who is broad in his views on public affairs and is acquainted with the needs of Texas—past, present and future. He should know her needs of the past, her manner of securing them and the result of their application. He should know her needs at the present time, and be unswerving in his devotion to his duty in securing them. He should be acquainted with her needs and demands for the future and must be untiring in his efforts to secure that which will redound to our best interest and to the general welfare of Texas.

There is a high, a great, a business im-

portant, a truly patriotic mission for this Texas Legislature. We are here to legislate for a territory as large in area and containing a larger population than was represented by our forefathers, who laid the foundation of the American Republic. In our hands to a great extent we find the welfare of the bravest, the grandest, the noblest and best people into whom an Allwise Creator has ever breathed the breath of life. Their property, their liberty, their lives and to an important and not little extent their future happiness and prosperity are dependent upon the transactions of this body. We are to legislate in behalf of a people who are the descendants of the very cream of the human race. From every civilized nation under the sun came the truest hardihood and the most splendid manhood to settle the broad expanse of Texas. Courage was their natural attribute—bold, determined and independent they wrested their lonely hostility from the grasp of the tyrant's grip and invited the world to come—they sang the sweet song to the world which Houston ordered played during the battle of San Jacinto, "Will you come to the bower I have shaded for you?" and in answer to that musical invitation a splendid citizenship responded, and I have no doubt they have builded far more wisely than they know.

This is the greatest State in the American Union in more respects than any Texas man can ever realize, regardless of his pride in her history or the extent of his research. From her fertile soil each year is gathered enough of the necessities of life to feed America; from her snow-white bosom each autumn is gathered enough of the fleecy staple to clothe the world; from the forests of the sighing pines down east, but yet within her domain, we can yet get enough timber to shelter from storm every man, woman and child within her bounds; from the deep of her bosom we get so bountiful a supply of gushing gas and oil that we expect to never be in need of fuel so long as time shall last; and to the treasures of her mines we ever look like a confident child to a prudent father.

Passing from the forests of pine, beech, oak, elm, cypress and spruce we behold a beautiful expanse of prairie carpeted with the finest grass that ever grew stretching far to the western horizon and making love with the setting sun and forming a perfect paradise of living, growing, fat stock of the highest and finest grades. Looking to the south and southwest we behold the huge granite mountains absolutely inexhaustible in

their supply of the finest building material in the world, and from which came the imperishable slabs which stand about us forming this, the most magnificent, capitol in the Union of States and one of the most beautiful buildings in all the world.

Texas, in her bold sweep of seven hundred miles from east to west and her daring dash of nine hundred miles from north to south, was not bought with gold nor is she for sale. She was bought with the blood of heroes as the battled scarred Alamo so truly attests and their descendants are living within her bounds and are just as ready to defend her fair name as e'er their fathers were to make it.

For such a State there must be a varied legislation, and especially so since her industries are so varied. Yet strong as her sons picture her to be—independent as she may be portrayed—her strength and independence are the outcome, doubtless to no little extent, of her draft on other States for their best citizenship.

Texas is bound to every State in the American Union by ties of friendship at least, and to one State, just to the north, by ties of blood, for from that imperial State hailed the grandfather and the father of Texas, Moses Austin and Stephen F. Austin. The first mentioned gave his life in an attempt to colonize our State and his last earthly thought was "Texas," and the latter yielded up the ghost in an effort to give us the constitutional liberty we today enjoy. From their days on down to the present good hour a stream of good citizenship has flowed as steadily and as naturally from that State to Texas as water from the mountain side until, by the census of 1900, out of the 3,048,828 souls in Texas, 56,000 of them were born in Missouri—a good per cent.—one out of every 54. That is not all. When the dark clouds of war hovered over Texas, and our fathers determined to try to throw off the Mexican yoke, and at a time when their independence seemed suspended by a hair, from no State did Texas receive more aid than from Missouri. And in 1846, in the war between the United States and Mexico, when volunteers were called for, three times as many offered to enlist from Missouri as could be accepted. From the first battle to the moment victory perched upon the banners of the braves of the Lone Star State and Old Glory floated over the halls of the Montezumas, the sons of Missouri fought with the courage of heroes because they loved Texas.

Now, Mr. Secretary, not that we owe

Missouri anything beside a debt of gratitude, but to show our appreciation of her kindness to us even though it be late, to show her that Texas always appreciates what is done for her, and to show the world that we invariably recognize ability and reward merit, I, am going to place before this body for our selection as Speaker a man who hails from Missouri, and he is attached to Texas by the strongest ties that bind. His father and mother spoke the vow that binds them through life in Texas; four of his dearest relatives lie sleeping the sleep that knows no waking beneath Texas sod, and he was patriotic enough to these memories to cast his lot with us, and he has been in Texas long enough to have served in and through two Texas Legislatures, and is now an honored member of the present session. He is the author of more good laws—some of them revenue-producing—than any man in Texas today, with the possible exception of Hon. A. W. Terrell of this city. His experience in the Missouri Legislature crowned and polished by his matchless success in the Texas Legislatures eminently qualify him for the position as presiding officer of this body. He is modest and unassuming. He is candid, direct, plain and sincere. He possesses the truest of moral courage, and is cautious, sober and watchful. He has the noble spirit of self-sacrifice, and is painstaking and skillful and sagacious. He is both a statesman and a patriot, and he rules by love. I promise you that if he is elected Speaker he will be as true and loyal to his friends as e'er was Jonathan to David, and to the best of his splendid ability he will mete out even-handed justice to all.

Yes, he came from Missouri some eight years ago, but little like Minerva from the brow of Jove he was full of strength and growth when he got here, and before he had been in Dallas county three years the people of that populous and prosperous county recognized his ability and sent him to represent them in the Texas Legislature, and they have returned him three times in succession with increased majorities and without visible opposition.

A good start is said to be a half won battle. So for us to begin wisely the disposition of the business the people of Texas have delegated us to do, let us select for Speaker that splendid parliamentarian, that conscientiously and efficient and admittedly sound lawyer, that dignified statesman and high-minded legislator, Thos. B. Love, of Dallas, Speaker of this the Thirtieth House, and methinks I can hear the welcome plaudits

from the glad hearts of the people of Texas exclaiming "Well done thou good and faithful servant."

Hon. F. C. Hume, Jr., of Harris county, nominated Hon. H. B. Terrell, of McLennan county.

Hon. Jas. H. Robertson, of Travis county, withdrew the name of Hon. J. L. Peeler, of Travis county, as a candidate for Speaker.

Hon. T. H. McGregor, of Harris county, seconded the nomination of Hon. Thos. B. Love, and in seconding the nomination said:

Mr. Secretary and Gentlemen of the Thirtieth Legislature:

To render a service to the State and by the same act accord recognition to the virtues and qualities of a personal friend constitutes a privilege, the enjoyment of which adds a charm to the performance of public duty.

Jealous of the destiny of this great State; with a full knowledge of the integrity of him for whom I speak, I come with confidence to ask you, the representative Democracy of Texas, to make Thomas Bell Love Speaker of this body to preside over its deliberations. For ten industrious years he has gone in and out among the people of this State and no man has ever seen his foot to falter or waver in the path of public duty. He has by assiduous application and unremitting toil and labor in the execution of the commissions entrusted to him, by those whom he represents, eminently qualified himself for the position which he seeks, and merits your promotion by the impress which his mind has left upon the legislation of this State.

The incarnation of industry—of marvelous versatility—the very genius of organization—courteous and at times patient to a fault, he has touched every field of legislation and ripened into a finished parliamentarian.

In two brief sessions of this body every citizen of this State has felt the beneficent and beneficial effects of the fullness of his labor.

He said to the street railroads of this State, because of the privileges and immunities which you enjoy you shall carry the children of her cities for half what you now charge and they obeyed because the court of last resort said it was a just and wholesome law.

Endowed by nature with a heart responsive to the sufferings of others, he assisted in the passage of a law requiring those companies to protect their employes from wind and storm and cold by vestibuling their cars.

He joined aggressive hands with oth

ers and in the Twenty-eighth Legislature passed a law which drove fraudulent fire insurance companies from this State forever.

It was under his management that the County Depository Act became a law. He was largely instrumental in the passage of the "Shylock Bill," which drove the usurious money changers from the homes of the laboring men of our cities.

He believed that capital should bear its just proportion of the burdens of government, and he not only introduced and fought to passage the "Love Gross Receipts Bill," which gives an increased revenue of six hundred thousand dollars a year to the State, but he followed that bill through its course in the courts and assisted in sustaining it against the combined assaults of the choicest legal talent in the profession.

But few men in so brief a period, with the limited opportunities offered by a finished and stable State, have had the ability to discern the needs and wants of the people and the courage and industry to crystalize those needs and wants into the "law of the land." He has been patient, but aggressive; industrious, but careful, and at all times guarded with eternal vigilance the inalienable and imperishable rights of the people. These constitute something of his accomplishments. He is instinctively and intuitively a Democrat. He believes that all governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed; that all power, rights and privileges rest with the people, from whom alone they can emanate and to whom, in all free States, they must return—and, believing this, he has lent an attentive ear and a willing hand to catch and create into law the will and wish of his people.

I know that not a shadow has ever fallen across his name. Industrious ambition, corporate greed and other interests, seeking to profit by his fall, have sought in vain for one dark spot upon his public or private life.

But, sir, envy whispers that he was not born in Texas. I say to you that the dust of his dead sleeps in a dozen places in the historic and tragic soil of this State. That here his father wooed and won his mother; here they linked the destiny of their two lives and he, with an inherited love, has come back to this State—back to his own. And he comes not as an outcast and a wanderer, but in the vigor of strong manhood, bringing the confidence and carrying the seal of honor conferred by those among whom he has been reared. He comes not speaking a strange tongue

nor wearing the habits and garb of a foreign land, but from a splendid commonwealth, which gave to this imperial State Stephen Austin and glorious Ben McCulloch.

Insinuating malice has said that he is not imbued with Southern ideas and Southern ideals. Yet the torn and faded Confederate gray wraps the forms of his patriotic people who sleep in the cemeteries which dotted this country in the wake of war from Sabine Pass to Gettysburg. And I, myself, have seen him plant pinks and pansies and trail eglantines and roses over the graves of Southern soldiers and heard him pay eloquent tribute to the memory of the Texas soldiers who sleep at Oak Hill, where they demonstrated a valor unsurpassed in the history of the world and unapproached except by the heroism of the Alamo or the chivalry of the "Old Guard."

True to every relation in life, he has been and is true to the traditions and glorious memories of his people. Above all, sir, he is a frank, manly man. I have been his friend and sat with him in council and he never framed a charge against an opponent but what it bore a signature and carried a seal. I have been his adversary in sharp political contests and he always unfurled his flag upon a fair field, flashed a burnished sword and scorned a stiletto.

I present him to you as a tried friend, a faithful public servant, a splendid citizen and an ideal Speaker.

Hon. S. M. King, of Nacogdoches county, seconded the nomination of Hon. H. B. Terrell.

Hon. J. J. Strickland, of Anderson county, seconded the nomination of Hon. Thos. B. Love.

Hon. M. G. Jackson, of Eastland county, seconded the nomination of Hon. Thos. B. Love.

Hon. E. C. Gaines, of Comanche county, seconded the nomination of Hon. H. B. Terrell and in seconding the nomination said:

Mr. Secretary and Members of the House of Representatives:

I am glad to add another endorsement to that of those who have spoken in favor of Mr. Terrell. The friend of all, he can scarcely be called the candidate of a faction. He is a man with a clear head and a clean heart, around whom we can gather as our mutual friend. If there has been bitterness engendered between the forces of the other gentlemen who were in the contest, it might be said that the election of one of them would deprive the people of the

full service of the other side. The election of Mr. Terrell will eliminate that unpleasant feature of our contest and will immediately unite these forces for the common good.

Born and reared in Texas, the sacred memories of the past and the fondest hopes of the future unite his every impulse for the glory and the grandeur of his fatherland.

We want a good parliamentarian; Mr. Terrell's long service here renders him the peer of any one in that respect. We want a man of firmness and of moral courage; who combines more of strength and of gentleness than Terrell does? We want a man with a clean life, who looks upon the Lone Star as his first love; we have presented you a man from the center of the State, across whose record the breath of suspicion has never passed.

We have an exalted ideal of public service, and that ideal can be best expressed in the language of the old Roman, who said that "Rome knew no qualification for great employments but virtue and ability."

We know the turns of politics and are not unmindful of the evanescent place and power that come and go with the times and the tides, but, in the language of Scotland's patriot: "We fight not for honors nor glory, but for our country and our country's religion, liberty and laws."

Hon. W. E. McConnell, of Palo Pinto county, seconded the nomination of Hon. Thos. B. Love.

There being no further nominations, the Chair appointed the following tellers:

To take up the ballots—Messrs. MacInerney, Braly, Bowman and Briscoe.

To count the ballots—Messrs. Strickland, Kennedy, Blanton and Orgain.

After the ballots had been counted and before the result had been announced, Hon. H. B. Terrell, of McLennan county, obtained the floor, withdrew his name from further consideration in the contest, and moved to make the election of Hon. Thos. B. Love unanimous. In making the motion, Mr. Terrell said:

Mr. Secretary and Fellow Members of the Thirtieth Legislature:

The contest just drawn to a close has upon the part of myself and friends been a clean and honorable one. A contest between Democrats and friends for a high and honorable position, conducted upon a high plane, free from a semblance of mud-slinging and without a single promise or pledge to a supporter other than that of a square deal to every man. We have made the fight and gone down

in defeat with no malice in our hearts. To those who followed me to defeat I tender my sincere thanks. No man ever had truer or nobler friends in any contest than those who followed me in the one just closed, and in the years to come one of the sweetest memories of mine will be the memory of the faithful band who today have gone down in defeat with me. I desire to say to them that the time will never come, conditions will never be such that when they command me I will not respond. To those who saw fit to follow the fortune of the distinguished gentleman from Dallas I have naught to say, and am as ready to forget the past and join hands with them and him in the enactment of every law that will redound to the good of Texas. Side by side will I work with the gentleman whom you have just chosen for your presiding officer in attempting to carry out every plank in the Democratic platform adopted at Dallas. And together will I work with him in carrying out the policies of the incoming administration.

In conclusion it affords me pleasure to move the unanimous election of the Hon. T. B. Love of Dallas county.

The motion to make the election of Speaker unanimous prevailed.

The Chair then had the result of the ballot announced, which stood as follows:

Hon. Thos. B. Love received 87 votes.

Hon. H. B. Terrell received 45 votes.

The Chair then declared Hon. Thos. B. Love of Dallas county duly elected Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Thirtieth Legislature, and appointed the following committee to escort Mr. Love to the rostrum: Messrs. Gafford, Hume and Heslep.

The Honorable Secretary of State then administered the oath of office to the Speaker-elect and presented him to the House as Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Thirtieth Legislature.

Mr. Love addressed the House and said:

Gentlemen of the House of Representatives:

Words fail me utterly to express the gratitude that I feel to this distinguished body for the high honor which you have paid me in the action which it has taken. But above the honor, great as that is, there is involved in this evidence of your desire that I shall preside over the deliberations of this session, that which I prize higher than any mere formal honor. I take it you will pardon me for saying it for there is not a trace of bitterness in my heart. I take it as

an indubitable expression of the representatives of the sovereign people of this great State that they have confidence in my honor and integrity as a man. The friends who have stood by me in this contest I never can forget. And whoever had such friends as mine have been? As I have kept in touch with them throughout this contest, it has seemed to me that veritably when the fight has been the fiercest they have been the most devoted. I have thought that, like the sturdy oak, they have most leaned to the storm. No Lethean stream can ever remove from the tablets of my memory the vivid living impression of their self-sacrificing loyalty and devotion. I could not forget them if I would, and I would not forget them if I could. But, better than by mere words to express my appreciation of the never-to-be-forgotten services rendered me by them, it is for me to show my appreciation and offer them some recompense, by manifesting that in choosing and selecting me for Speaker they have given this body a president who will be absolutely fair. (Applause.) I trust that I shall be fair to each and every member of this body, as it shall be my purpose to. But as God above shall give me the light to see and the power to do, I know I shall be fair to the incomparable people of Texas, whom we are here to serve. (Applause.) I have taken this office under no sort of deception or misrepresentation. I have said that as Speaker I would stand, as I have stood as a member on the floor, for the interests of all the people of this State and against the unfair and undue aggression of every special interest. I shall stand, as I have always stood, for the enactment into law of every platform demand of the Democratic party of this State. (Applause.) No member who has served with me will honestly doubt the sincerity of this statement for a moment. I will be absolutely fair to the individual members, as I have always been. The record shows I have honestly tried to be fair to every man with whom I have served within these halls, as I have tried to be fair to those whom I have met in private affairs.

To those who have opposed me in this contest honorably and fairly for local or personal reasons, I not only have no sort of reproach, but I have only feelings of the warmest commendation and respect; and to any who may have opposed me by methods unfair or indefensible, I have no sort of bitter feeling. Vengeance is not mine. That can safely be left to God and the incomparable people of this State. I shall accord to every man who

represents a constituency here the high recognition and appreciation which I feel is due to the representative of any constituency in this magnificent State.

Now, one word as to the work at hand, and I shall conclude. We are met for business—the contest is over. I ask the men who have stood with me to join with me now in forgetting forever that there has been a contest here. (Applause.) Let no man remember anything that has taken place prior to this election. We are met, as I have said, for business—sacred business—the people's business. Let us proceed to devote, not three days in a week, nor four, nor five, but six days in the week to the performance of the business we are sent here to do until it has been completed. (Applause.) And I want to make this additional suggestion at this time, which I think is the proper time for the suggestion to come from the presiding officer of the House. I hope that those members will give to the Speaker a rule through which he can absolutely require that no man, woman or child, except members of the House and its officers, and ex-members who are not interested in legislation to be effected by legislation, shall be permitted upon the floor of the House while the House is in actual session. (Great applause and cries of "Good.") I am of the opinion that the Representatives of the people of this State, assembled for the solemn business of making laws for the government of the State, should be as sacred from outside interference or contact while they are engaged in their actual deliberations as is a jury in the box. (Applause.)

Now, one word further, and I shall conclude. I say from my heart it is my sole and single purpose from this moment forward to give all the ability, all the honesty of purpose, all the determination that is within me to this one single result, to produce at the hands of the Thirtieth Legislature the largest quantum of wholesome results for the benefit of the people of this State that has ever issued from any Legislature in its history. (Great applause.)

If any member of this House feels at any time that he has been treated unfairly in any matter by the Speaker, I ask of him in fairness simply this—to let the Speaker himself be the first man to whom you speak of your grievance; and if you do, I give you the assurance of an honest man, that if after reasoning it out together it is my conviction that your complaint is just, the Chair will do everything within its power to right the wrong or prevent the wrong if one is about to result.

Again thanking you for the great

honor you have paid me in elevating me to this high position, and again bespeaking your kind assistance in immediately proceeding to the business for which we are met, and in again bespeaking your assistance in keeping at the business we are here to do until it is completed, I declare this House now ready for business. What is the pleasure of the House?