

The Senate Does a Full Business—The House Refuses to Validate Acts of the Late Land Board.

Austin, Tex., March 18.—Senator Terrell was elected president pro tem. in the absence of President Wheeler. Mr. Burney—Resolution that the chairman of the special committee on the Willis investigation be authorized to print in the Journal such portions of the testimony as he may deem necessary.

Mr. Gregg wanted the testimony in full printed if he had to pass upon it. Mr. Stinson would not condemn a man unless he had all the testimony.

Amendments were offered covering these objections.

Chairman McDonald and Camp, of the committee, explained that they proposed to print all the oral testimony, but the transcript from the record of the trials at Clarendon might be summarized.

Mr. Burgess thought all the testimony ought to be printed except what the chairman of the committee and Representatives may agree to omit.

Mr. Allen objected to the printing of any part of the testimony. The House would leave it to the committee.

The resolution was amended requiring the testimony in full to be printed in the journals, but authorizing summary of transcripts and adopted.

Mr. Lane introduced a bill to prohibit hiring out convicts for a longer term than two years.

Mr. Douglass, of Jefferson—Bill to prohibit holding of any county office by a person not a qualified voter in the county.

Mr. Davis—Bill to require a certified copy of the petition with citation to be served upon defendant when a non-resident of the county in which the suit is brought.

Senate bill to require railway companies having connecting or crossing lines to take each other's freight and promptly transport it. Passed to engrossment.

Senate bill authorizing the treasurer to refund money paid for bonds under act of 1870, for which patents are refused or patents cancelled, passed to engrossment.

The pharmacy bill, on second reading, was discussed and killed off by indefinite postponement. It took just an hour to indict the death penalty.

The invitation to the Senate to attend the prohibition mass-meeting at the court-house to-night was read, and Mr. Pope asked the Senators who voted for the prohibition amendment to represent the Senate at the meeting.

Senate bill to revive land scrip, by J. C. Patton, passed.

Senate bill to validate notarial acts of William Neal, of Stephens County.

Pending discussion the morning session adjourned.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

House bill to postpone forced collection of taxes of 1886 to November, 1887, in certain counties.

Mr. Burney's Senate bill postponing tax sales in all the counties to the first Monday in August was substituted for the House bill. Mosses, Woods, Claiborne, Jarvis, Douglass of Jefferson, Abercrombie, Terrell, Gregg, Douglass of Grayson and Houston exempted their counties from the operation of the bill.

An amendment to substitute September for August was adopted, and the bill passed to engrossment by one majority.

In the discussion of this bill Senator Jarvis replied to the remarks of Mr. Terrell in reference to Fort Worth, made yesterday, and turned the joke against Terrell very neatly.

Two House bills amending the game laws passed.

House bill increasing the penalty for bigamy to penitentiary from two to five years passed.

House bill fixing penalty for illegal voting covering defect in present law, which applies only to general elections. The bill punishes illegal voting at any election.

House bill requiring doctors' diplomas or licenses to be filed with County Clerks passed.

Pending consideration of the bill exempting various counties from operation of the criminal game laws, when the bill was in a tangle, the Senate adjourned till to-morrow.

THE HOUSE.

Mr. Harrison, by request, introduced a bill to prohibit the enticing of laborers under contract from their employers and to prescribe a penalty therefor.

Mr. Browning introduced a bill to create the Martin, Scurry, Crosby and Knox land districts. The Martin District is to be composed of Martin, Andrews and Gaines Counties; the Scurry District of Scurry, Kent and Garza; the Crosby District of Crosby, Dickens, Floyd, Hale, Lamb, Bailey, Cochran, Hockley and Lubbock; the Knox District of Knox and King.

The Senate amendments to the bill to restore civil and criminal jurisdiction to the County Courts of Live Oak, Karnes, Throckmorton and other counties were concurred in.

The House refused to concur in the Senate substitute for the House reformatory bill.

Also non-concurred in Senate amendments to the bill exempting from forced sale 500 pounds lint or 1800 pounds seed cotton for every family.

The Senate had substituted the necessary amount of fuel for exemption.

Concurrence was had in the Senate amendments to the following bills: Bill punishing the sale of whisky at elections. Bill requiring county officers to make reports regularly to the Commissioners' Courts. Bill changing terms of District Courts in the Thirteenth District. Bill to authorize cities and towns to levy and collect taxes for the construction or purchase of public buildings, waterworks, sewers, street improvements, etc. Senate amendments to the high license bill were non-concurred in.

during the session took the floor and ably supported the amendment. It was adopted—ayes 71, nays 16.

Mr. Hudgins offered an amendment to strike out the clause to authorize the sale of purely pasture lands without permanent water in quantities not exceeding four sections to any one settler. Lost—ayes 34, nays 64.

Mr. McLaughy offered an amendment to section five in bill to classification of lands as provided, for any person desiring in good faith to purchase any of the lands not classified for the purpose of actual settlement, may purchase not to exceed one section at the minimum prices fixed by the act by complying with the provisions of the act which apply to actual settlers on agricultural lands.

Pending consideration of this amendment the House took a recess until 1 o'clock.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Mr. McLaughy's amendment to the land bill was adopted.

Mr. Bell, of Cooke, offered an amendment, exempting the following counties from the lease provisions of the bill and terminating all present leases in them: Lipscomb, Ochiltree, Hemphill, Roberts, Gray, Wheeler, Donley, Collingsworth, Hall, Childress, Motley, Cottle, Dickens, King, Stone, Fisher, Nolan, Runnells, Concho, Bandera, Frio, LaSalle and Webb and the counties immediately east and contiguous to these.

After a spirited discussion between Mr. Bell and Mr. Payne the amendment was lost—ayes 30, nays 68.

An amendment by Mr. Strong was adopted requiring that when four sections are sold to the same settler they shall be contiguous or as nearly so as practicable.

Mr. Browning offered an amendment that lands be classified as agricultural, which may be leased under the act, shall be leased subject to sale as provided by the act, and whenever such leased lands may be purchased the lessee shall give immediate possession, provided that the lessee shall have a pro rata credit upon his next year's rent or the money refunded to him by the treasurer, as he may elect.

M. Fabian offered the following amendment to the amendment:

"Provided that no actual settler who shall purchase land within any leasehold shall be permitted to turn loose more than one head of cattle or horses for every ten acres of land purchased by him and uninclosed, or in lieu thereof four head of sheep or goats to every ten acres of land so purchased and uninclosed; each violation of the provisions of this act which restrict the number of stock that may be turned loose within an inclosure of lands leased from the State shall be an offense and the offender on indictment and conviction shall be punished by fine in any sum not to exceed \$100."

The latter was adopted as an amendment to that of Mr. Browning and became an amendment to the bill.

The House adjourned.

THE WILLIS CASE.

THE SENATE MOVING CAUTIOUSLY.

Austin, Tex., March 18.—The attitude of Temple Houston, the Panhandle senator, on the Willis case is enigmatical. Neither the patients nor the opponents of Willis have been able to fathom Mr. Houston's feelings. He has maintained a resolute silence. The constitution makes Mr. Houston one of the thirty-one judges to pass upon the case, and all that he has ever said was that he would take nothing but official cognizance of the case. He evidently thinks that the fact that the case has arisen in his district, is no cause why he should descend from the judge into the partisan. The Senate to-day indicated a firm purpose to have the full testimony in the Willis address proceeding printed, for the reason the members of the high court do not propose, as the other House did, to condemn a man upon the recommendation merely of three-fifths of a committee, and without evidence upon which to predicate a verdict. The committee intends to submit the evidence in full, except that it will publish only a synopsis of the transcript of the record of the inclosure cases. This transcript, of some seventy-five pages, contains the records of about sixty trials. One case being about the same as another, no necessity exists for printing the whole. The committee also is bringing the investigation more strictly within the general rules for eliciting testimony, and leaves the respondent much less to complain of than he did, and justly, in the investigation by the House committee. Senators in the discussion to-day quite plainly indicated they could not condemn a man upon a report and testimony such as were acted upon by the House.

THE TESTIMONY TO-DAY.

The committee was on duty in the afternoon and the State about concluded. Among others Matt Clark, for the State, said in the Allis case a jury was impaneled. Judge Willis asked if any of the jury were indicted for gaming. One man said he was indicted, and the judge said stand aside and that he was not a qualified juror. In the Munson case, charged with murder, the judge called attention to the fact that evidence was illegally admitted, and said that if the State's attorney did not object the court could not rule. McIntyre, a gambler, and Judge Willis were very friendly. Judge Willis and Mansker, another gambler, were very friendly.

Cross-examined—The question as to the disqualification of the jurors in the gambling cases, if made by the district attorney, was not heard by me, and all I heard was from the judge. I have not been in Mobeetie since the 6th of March. I have not received any money from anybody but the Comptroller for services as witness in this case. I never told Joe Platt that as soon as Willis was fired out my pockets would be full of money. I never said that Templeton or anybody else was putting up money for me. I have not received enough money from the State to pay my expenses in going and coming to Austin, and am out \$28 over and above the script.

THE TWO HOUSES.

A REPRESENTATIVE ON THE SENATE.

Austin, Tex., March 18.—Mr. Lattimer, of the House of Commons, to-day paid his respects to the House of Lords. He said it was impossible for a bill that goes from the Lower House to that body to be so framed as to meet with approval there. He insisted that there were men in the House just as capable of enacting legislation for the benefit of the people as in the Senate. Here he was applauded, and the young lawyers all sat erect behind their desks. He thought the commons should rebuke this arrogant treatment and go slower in giving concurrence to all the amendments passed by the Senate to the House bills simply because they came from that august body. It is a fact that such House bills as are fortunate enough to ever find their way back from the Senate are usually almost

TOO MUCH DISFIGURED

for recognition. It is also true that there is a good amount of legislative talent in the House that will compare favorably with any in the Senate. Perhaps the true secret of the trouble complained of by Mr. Lattimer is the fact that the Senate is more deliberative and less hasty with its work. It also has a less number of members, and, therefore, fewer men with hobbies to encrust its bills. It may be a commendable ambition, but it certainly appears to be the ambition of every legislator to have a hand in editing the statutes, and when one cannot get his ideas incorporated into one bill he tries to get them into another. This sometimes results in peculiar incongruities in a bill. If the House were a smaller body it might be

less representative. But its legislation would undoubtedly be less defective and the Senate would have less revising to do.

LAND LEGISLATION.

ITS CONDITION AT PRESENT.

Austin, Tex., March 18.—The Senate land bill has been fatally amended by the free grassers, to destroy the lease feature of the case. Under the "may be made, but the lease lands may be purchased in the lessee's inclosure," of course few will lease. The clause added to the bill this morning for the relief of purchasers of school lands under former laws will scarcely, if the bill passes, be operative. The Land Office must be advised, and it is unconstitutional whenever the attorney general's opinion is obtained. The present administration of the Land Office is not disposed to decide constitutional questions, and will execute the laws as they are found strictly according to the letter and spirit. The House has muddled the bill with amendments until it has no symmetry or coherence. The last amendment of any importance was that of Mr. Fabian, which incorporates the principle upon which Judge Terrell's famous land bill was founded. This ought to be rejected. It would spoil a good measure to shoot it into this extraordinary jumble of sections, clauses and provisions that is called a land bill. However, the Senate will reject most of the amendments, there will be a conference report and there is yet a fair prospect of passing a good bill.

AUSTIN NOTES.

ADJOURNMENT PROSPECTS.

Austin, Tex., March 18.—There is talk of a resolution to be introduced in the House, perhaps to-morrow, fixing the first of April for adjournment, but from the condition of business at present and the slow headway the House is making on the land bill it would seem that the 10th would be a better date to propose. The appropriation bill was made the special order for Monday, but it will be postponed until the land bill is finished, which can hardly be earlier than next Wednesday. The appropriation bill will perhaps take a week in the House and several days in the Senate. Then there are other measures to consume time, and the chances are that all of this will carry the session at least a week into April.

PROHIBITION MEETING.

A prohibition meeting was held here to-night, at which the delegates to the late convention at Waco gave glowing accounts of the interest manifested and the work done in that body. A resolution was adopted inviting all the prohibitionists of Travis County to meet in convention here on the 2d of April. Representative Bird, of Lamar County, and others addressed the meeting. There were about 125 persons present, including a number of legislators and a few ladies.

PHARMACY BILL.

The pharmacy bill in the Senate had a rough deal from Mr. Pope and other Senators. Mr. Pope thought where one death resulted from mistakes of drug clerks, the skillful doctors killed their dozen. Some of the Senators objected only to the feature of requiring all drug clerks compounding medicine to be examined by boards and get licenses, especially in the rural districts, where long distances must be traveled to find the boards. Others believed it a job to create a monopoly in the drug business, and an aristocracy of prescriptionists, and others favoring the bill regarded the ordinary drug clerk as a bloody assassin. The creation of pharmacy boards by the bill was the bad medicine the Senate would not take. This Legislature is down on boards.

POSTPONEMENT OF TAX SALES.

The appeal made by Senator Calhoun in behalf of the bill to postpone tax sales in the drouth stricken counties this afternoon was a fine speech, which induced Senators to vote for a measure their better judgment condemns. The bill as it passed to engrossment postpones tax sales until September next in more than half the counties of the State. Between this time and September the state treasury will need a million and a quarter dollars, less the present cash balance. Would not the Treasurer throw up the financial sponge if half the revenues are postponed through this season of need? But then the Senate is not going to pass the final reading in its present shape.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

The governor has signed forty-five bills, three joint resolutions and two special bills. There are numerous bills in the final stage of completion to be submitted for his approval, and he has two now under consideration, one of which is in a precarious condition.

There appears no life left in the railroad commission bill, and it is probably shelved, though towards adjournment a spurt to pass it may be made for appearance sake. Its staunchest friends give it up. The House is likely to cut down the Senate appropriation for furniture for the new Capitol.

A trade is talked of by which the State would swap the temporary Capitol, and the square it is on, for the property north of the new Capitol, which, if built up, will endanger the granite structure in case of fire.

The evidence of the Scotch granite cutters is being reduced to writing for use in the prosecutions of Gus Wilke and Col. Taylor, capital builders, for importing foreign labor. These witnesses are brought down from Burnet at their own expense and paid off in certificates.

It is reported Judge Wilson has been nominated for Congress at Palestine, and the friends of Capt. R. H. Phelps, of La Grange here have gone to work to secure him the place which Judge Wilson will vacate, a position he is eminently well qualified to fill. He has long been a prominent and influential Democrat and a leading lawyer in his district.

The Galveston delegation in the House have up to the present time worked together in perfect harmony, but are likely to lock horns to-morrow upon the sea wall bill, which Mr. Gresham favors, and Mr. Plumby opposes on the ground that it interferes with private rights in property.

Representative Kennedy, of Starr County, was to-day informed by telegram of the dangerous illness of his wife and left for home.

Mr. P. H. Hennessy to-day gave bond in the cases against him here, his sureties being Col. J. P. Smith, of Fort Worth, Mr. M. P. Hennessy, of Galveston, and Dr. J. M. Day, of Austin. He left for Galveston to-night in company with Mr. M. P. Hennessy.