

Georgia Legislature.

IN SENATE.

Saturday, Dec 8.

BILLS PASSED.

To sell and dispose of the unsold lots in the town of Macon, and the public lands on the east and west side of the Ocmulgee river near and adjoining the said town.

To amend the act to empower the general court of Pleas, to grant writs of partition of lands and tenements held in coparcenary, joint tenancy, &c.

To render easy the mode of conveying land, and for making valid all deeds of conveyance heretofore made that may be deficient in point of form.

Monday, Dec. 10

The resolution from the House of Representatives appropriating \$20,000 for the enlargement of the State House, was taken up and concurred in by the Senate—Yeas 43, Nays 20.

The Senate took up and concurred with the House in the resolution, (after amending the same,) appropriating \$2,000 to be applied to the repairing, painting, and furnishing the Government House.

Mr Clayton of Clarke, submitted for the consideration of the Senate a paper relative to the objections to the Penitentiary system.

On motion of Mr. Hendrick, the preamble and resolution referring the Penitentiary system to the people, was taken up. An amendment was then offered to the same, when

On motion, the original resolution and amendment were both laid on the table for the remainder of the session—Yeas 26, nays 27.

The Senate took up and agreed to the report of the joint penitentiary committee, which is as follows:

The joint penitentiary committee have performed the duties assigned them, and report—That they have examined the buildings generally, and find no repairs necessary at present, and that the business of the different departments are conducted in a manner highly creditable to the officers of the institution. Your committee would refer the house for a particular detail of the transactions of the last year, to the reports of the Principal Keeper and the Board of Inspectors. Your committee, in regard to the reference from the House of Representatives to inquire into the expediency of abolishing the office of the Board of Inspectors, are of the opinion, that the same cannot be done without manifest injury to the Institution, inasmuch as it constitutes the only check to the abuse of power which might be exercised to the injury of the convicts. Your committee regret, that the institution from the defect of its internal police as yet, has not realized the expectation of its founders in producing that reformation in the minds and habits of the convicts which was so fondly anticipated. The most prominent of these defects, we hold to be the promiscuous association of the convicts; vice has its shades, and guilt its colors. The grey head of infamy requires the arm of omnipotence to work its reformation; and youth with present hopes deceived and a dark futurity in prospect, are too apt to look with complacency on the demoniac smile of guilt.

Your committee would respectfully suggest that the uncertainty of the duration of punishment from the frequency of pardons, tends in a measure to increase crime. For it is in direct violation of the established maxim, that the certainty, more than the severity of punishment, deters from the commission of crime.

Your committee are of the opinion that no officers of the Penitentiary should be allowed to furnish any of the raw material necessary for the Institution, either directly or indirectly, disclaiming at the same time any intention to censure any of the officers of the Institution, but simply believe it to be a bad precedent; and that abuses might in time, grow out of the practice; and your committee would therefore recommend the following resolution.

Resolved, That in future it shall be the

bill of the coal and lumber that may be wanting in the Institution from time to time, and, that he lay the same before the Board of Inspectors, whose duty it shall be to give thirty days notice in one or more papers in this place of the supplies so wanted, and receive sealed proposals, and let the same to the lowest bidder.

BILL PASSED.

To add a part of the county of Houston, to the county of Palaski.

The bill to alter and amend the 2d sec. of the 4th art. of the constitution of this state was negatived by the Senate, (there not being a constitutional majority)—Yeas 32—Nays 28.

Tuesday, Dec. 11.

Mr. Swain, moved to reconsider the Journal of yesterday, so far as relates to the rejection of the resolution submitting to the people, the question of the propriety of abolishing the Penitentiary system—Yeas 27—Nays 35.

Mr. Clayton of Clark, reported instanter, a bill to regulate intercourse between the several chartered Banks and Branch Banks in this State, so far as relates to demand of payment from one another of the notes issued by them respectively— which was read the first time.