Tuesday, March 8th, 1864.

Convention met at 12 o'clock, M.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Mr. Watson stated that as the Report of the Committee on Emancipation was not thought to be as perfect as it might be made, he moved to recommit to the Committee. The motion was concurred in.

On motion of Mr. Haushurst the Committee was then instructed to report by Thursday next.

Mr. Downey submitted an Ordinance defining Treason and for the punishment of the same, which was laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

On motion the Convention adjourned until 10 o'clock, A.M., to-morrow.

LeRoy P. Edwards
President of the Convention

W. J. Covington
Secy. of the Convention

Wednesday, March 9th, 1864.

Convention met at 10 o'clock, A.M.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Mr. Watson, in behalf of the Chairman of the Committee on Emancipation and Education, submitted the following report:

"Your Committee on Emancipation beg leave to introduce the following as a part of the Constitution of Virginia, to be inserted in the same under the caption of "Slavery or Freedom."

Sec. 1st. Slavery and involuntary servitude (except for crime) is hereby abolished and prohibited, in the State forever.

Sec. 2nd. Courts of competent jurisdiction may apprentice minors of African decent on like conditions provided by law, for apprenticing white children.

Sec. 3rd. The General Assembly shall make no law establishing Slavery or recognizing property in human beings

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W. W. Wing, Chairman
R. B. Wood.
Philip G. Thomas.
A. Watson.
} Committee

Laid on the table, and on motion of Mr. Webb was made the special order for to-morrow.

Mr. Downey submitted the following resolutions, which were laid on the table and ordered to be printed:

Resolved, That the money or monies obtained from the sales of confiscated property, shall be applied first. to the payment of loyal persons for all the losses they have sustained by and through this rebellion; second. to be applied to free school purposes; third., if a surplus. it shall be applied to the payment of the State debt, or on internal improvements.

2nd,—The Legislature shall provide by law for the same at the first session after the adoption of this Constitution.

Mr. Downey also offered the following resolutions, which were referred to the Committee on Education:

Resolved, That the Legislature shall, as soon as conveniently may be, provide by law, for a general system of education throughout the State, in such a manner that the poor may be taught gratis.

2nd.—That the arts and sciences shall be promoted in one or more seminaries or colleges of learning.

Mr. Webb, Chairman of the Special Committee on the contested seat of Mr. George R. Boush, made the following report, which was unanimously adopted:

"The Committee to whom was referred the claim of James W. Brownley Esq., of Portsmouth, to a seat in this Convention in place of George R. Boush, beg leave to report that they have examined carefully the papers filed, and are of the opinion that Mr. J. W. Brownley is not entitled to a seat in this Convention

L. W. Webb, Chairman
R. B. Wood.
Wm. P. Moore, Jr.
James M. Downey
S. Ferguson Beach
} Committee

Mr. Downey submitted an Ordinance providing for amendments to the Constitution by the Legislature after the year one thousand eight hundred and seventy

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laid on the table and ordered to be printed by the following vote: ayes 7; nays 5.

Mr. Hawthurst then moved to take up the ordinance previously introduced by the gentleman from Loudoun. Mr. Downey, defining and punishing treason, and submitted a substitute for the same. The subject was debated at some length by Messrs Hawthurst, Penn, Downey and Webb, after which it was laid on the table, ordered to be printed and made the special order of Tuesday next.

On motion the Convention adjourned until 10 o'clock, A. M., to-morrow.

LeRoy G. Edwards
President of the Convention

W. J. Corning
Sec'y. of the Convention

Thursday, March 10th, 1864.

Convention met at 10 o'clock, A. M.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

The report of the Committee on Emancipation being the special order of the day, the same was taken up and read.

The subject was then debated at considerable length by Messrs. Downey, Boush, Hawthurst and Watson in favor of its immediate adoption.

Mr. Beach desired to make an explanation. His name did not appear on the report of the Committee on Emancipation from the fact that he was absent when the Committee made its report. As he endorsed the report and should vote for its adoption, he asked that his name might be recorded with the balance of the Committee. The request was granted and his name so recorded.

Mr. Penn said as there seemed to be no opposition, he would now move the unanimous adoption of the report.

Mr. Webb desired the ayes and nayes taken, and they were recorded as follows:

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Ayes — Messrs Beach, Bously, Downey, Lee, Edwards, Gorer, Henshaw, Hawxhurst, Penn, Thomas, Tennis, Webb, Wood, Watson, Young — 14.

Nayes — Mr. Moore.

So the report was adopted.

Mr. Watson offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to wait upon Gen. Slough and request that a salute be fired in honor of the passage of the act of Emancipation.

The President appointed the following named gentlemen as said committee — Messrs. Watson, Penn and Gorer.

Mr. Downey submitted the following resolution, which was also adopted:

Resolved, That a special committee of five members be appointed to prepare a schedule of the Constitution.

On motion the Convention then adjourned until 11 o'clock, A.M., to-morrow.

LeRoy G. Edwards
President of the Convention

W. J. Lowing
Sec'y. of the Convention

Friday, March 11th, 1864.

Convention met at 10 o'clock, A.M.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

The Report of the Committee on the Executive Department and Judiciary being the special order of the day, the same was taken up for consideration. As many members were unavoidably absent Mr. Webb moved to postpone the consideration of the report until Wednesday next. The motion was concurred in.

On motion the Convention adjourned until Monday next, at 10 o'clock, A.M.

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