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OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF BEXAR COUNTY AND CITY OF SAN ANTONIO.

THURSDAY, FEB. 20, 1872.

TEXAS STATE SOVEREIGN.

SESSION OF THE LEGISLATURE.

Delegates Convention of the Republic of Texas, which will be convened in the city of Houston on the second Tuesday of May, 1872, for the purpose of suspending the State Government, and to nominate Delegates to the Philadelphia National Convention, for a thorough reconsideration of the party, and for the transaction of other business, as may appear expedient before the body.

The basis of representation is fixed at the same for members of the Legislature, under the same rules as those which have been adopted by the citizens of the state, we believe that which he has done, was in the judgment of the people of the state, a wise and judicious one.

It is to be hoped that the Texan who has been elected to represent us in Congress, will be a man of high character, and a good representative.

Y. O. TRACY,

Chairman of the Committee.

J. V. NEWCOMB, Secretary.

The City Free Schools.

Not long since we visited the free school located on South Flores street, and intend shortly to visit all of the free schools of the city, with the view of critically observing the workings of the school law in this city, and giving to the public our candid opinions of whatever is admirable, and also, of whatever deserves disapprobation. Every one knows that these have been constructed by, and at the expense of the city, two large, commodious, and for this part of the world, very superior schoolhouses in this city, pleasantly and conveniently located. Every body knows that these school-houses have been turned over to the State School authorities and that Mr. DeGraw, the State Superintendent, has exercised a king-like control over them, from the appointment of the local officers and selection of teachers, to the purchasing of two tons of black-board slate, and the failing to purchase desks and seats and other necessary conveniences.

We take great pleasure in being able to say, that, in the selection of teachers, no better could have been made. This editor has been a teacher himself, and has taken some pains to observe the management of the fine public schools of New Orleans, Philadelphia, Chicago, and other cities, where they have become noted successes, and he does not hesitate to say, that all of the teachers employed in the school we have visited, possess superior attainments and ability in their vocation, and are thoroughly conscientious and devoted workers.

They have been, and are still, working under difficulties, and overcomes obstacles, which none but teachers of genuine piety and spirit would willingly meet. In the first place they have not received their salaries for some time. The annoyances and inconveniences growing out of this, we can know, but may possibly slightly conjecture. In the second place, no decent furniture has been supplied to a single room—except a large quantity of slate for blackboards which cannot be used because the building was not constructed for them, and there is no money to pay for the extraordinary expense which would be necessary to put them in place. In the privacy room, little up-and-down wooden benches, without backs, like a barrister's bench, a square writing-desk, too high to enable them to obtain a little half-way ease by resting their feet on the floor. In other rooms, old fashioned, and execrable wooden desks, which would be a disgrace to the bazaar but of a sick missionary in South Africa, teaching cannibals how to eat cooked meat and wear red flannel shirts, have been remodeled at the expense of the enterprising principal-teacher, and for lack of quantity the surplus pupils have been supplied, almost at her expense, with giant dry goods boxes. All of the teachers have been compelled to furnish themselves with chairs and desks, at their own expense—so it is remembered, or do without them. And yet, when these schools were taken possession of by Mr. DeGraw, the old school board, since removed, or succeeded by him, had already ordered the necessary desks and other furniture—but for some extraordinary reason, he gave positive commands that the order of the board should be compensated, and, of course, it had to be, and was done. Mr. DeGraw made much all the purchases himself. Now we have the right to think, but he could buy furniture for all the free schools in the state, in gross, cheaper than any single school-board could purchase at retail; but when several hundred pupils are compelled to sit in giant dry goods boxes, and a large number of inferior teachers are to be imposed upon the children the San Antonio teachers have been, under the pressure that Mr. DeGraw would give a few dollars to the school fund, if his plan appears to us to be right. It strikes us that most teachers are of more importance than a card of slate of which no one can speak.

We shall refer shortly to this subject again, and point out some other matters concerning the free schools of which the public have a right to be advised.

Want of space prevents further comment to-day.

Governor Davis.

We have received the circular to the city as extra stamp in the form of a seal, and the seal of the State of Texas, and the seal of the city of San Antonio, and other general purposes, approved February 19th, A. D. 1871, and is now in use.

We have examined the seal of the State of Texas, and the Ranger having a division in the chief cities of the state, and the Waco, Waco, Waco, where perhaps, the evil report concerning the Governor of Texas may reach, we wish to offer an explanation for the purpose of clearing up the name of the man trying to be got up by her, at the expense of her Chief Magistrate.

We believe the political opinions of Gov. Davis are honest, though they differ with ours. We believe, however, that which he has done, was in the judgment of the people of the state, a wise and judicious one.

He has called a special session of the Legislature to meet in the city of Austin, Texas, on the 1st of March, 1872, and the session is to be held at the capitol, the seat of government, and the capital of the state, to be held at the expense of the state, and the expenses of the session are to be paid by the state.

It is to be hoped that the family of the Governor, whose wife we respect and love as our own daughter, will be safe and well.

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The Texas State Fair.

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