



# The Daily Express

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Official Journal of Texas  
Official Journal of Bexar County.

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WEDNESDAY, April 28, 1875.

**RENT**  
The Republican Senatorial Executive Committee, for this, the 29th District, are requested to meet in the Assembly on the 1st Monday in May next, for the purpose of consultation in regard to the political situation in view of the coming election. This is a matter of great importance to our party and to our section, and it is hoped there will be a full attendance.

H. MACCORMACK  
Chairman.

On the third a Frenchman named Mahia was found hanging to a tree three miles from Dallas.

Col. Tom S. Stoggs expected at Dallas some on his return from Mexico to indicate where he had been.

The Cumberland Presbyterians of the South hold their conference at Jefferson in this State on the 20th of May.

Five years ago Austin had less than five thousand inhabitants; radical government and railroads have increased its population to over twelve thousand.

John Hancock expresses surprise that any democrat should object to a party convention and nominations in view of the Constitutional Convention; so says the State Gazette.

SUNDAY night, at Austin, J. Bobbin (colored) accidentally shot Emily Woods (colored) and killed her—carries banding of a pistol was the cause.

The Austin Statesman lays down history test of Democracy to be to sacrifice the black rabbit from the ballot box in local elections. It won't do to take this new departure.

The Dallas Herald publishes a table comparing the mileage allowed by the 12th and 14th Legislatures which shows that the democratic reformers who composed the 14th abasingly increased this mileage over that allowed by the 12th Legislature.

The Herald thinks this a strong reason for a Constitutional Convention; we think so too if we could strangle the hypocrisy of the so-called reform demagogues.

A CONVENTION, to take into consideration the best means for the speedy union of the United States and the Canadian Dominions will assemble in Buffalo, New York on July 4, 1875. Three delegates from each congressional district in the United States and three delegates from each parliamentary district in the British Provinces will compose the convention. As the number of subjects in both kindred peoples, the same language, identical interests, and a common destiny, has in all ages and countries, and especially in America and Europe, been attended with the happiest results, therefore it is natural that a very large number, if not even a large majority of the people in both the United States and the British Provinces believe that the union of these kindred States would forever prevent war, that disunity of blood and soil, secure complete fraternity, obliterate all restrictions upon trade and commerce, increase immigration, and finally result in increase and leading advantage in the encouragement, interests, and consolidation of the friends of this union into active cooperation, will be the most important and most important time for such union is exceedingly opportune, and that through this combination the world may be impeded by which it may be effected on the 4th of July, 1875, the Great American Centennial.

A Terrible Tragedy.  
Last Monday evening just before day, a negro, who had escaped the service of Mr. Blodgett, the hotel keeper in the town of Commerce, entered the hotel building, and assassinated two of Mr. Blodgett's sons, while they were asleep, and eleven and fourteen respectively; he also killed his own daughter eighteen years of age, and his step-daughter. After committing the foul deed, he fled to the house, and it and the furniture were consumed. The body of the negro was found dead from the flames, but some of the negroes were almost unburned.

At last, however, he was captured, and was tried and condemned, with the sheriff with a force of citizens who in pursuit of him.—West Reporter.

## The Charter Amendments. — A Vital Question.

The question recently sprung up in regard to the constitutionality of the amendments to our city charter voted upon at an election held December 15, 1874, has excited considerable comment and discussion. There remains not a single doubt among the legal fraternity as to the constitutionality of the amendments; they are not worth the paper upon which they are printed, and will not bear the test of legal investigation. In fact the charter remains intact and the amendment have no legal force or standing.

This is as is a matter of deep concern and regret to every good citizen; the new administration has secured the favor of a large majority of our citizens and it is the general wish that all things should proceed without interruption, at the same time that there should be no shadow upon the legality of the city government.

The amendments were eight in number to wit: Sections 5 and 6, providing for an election on the 2d Monday in January, 1875, and every two years thereafter of a Mayor, Recorder, City Councilmen, a City Collector, City Attorney, City Physician, City Marshal and Street Commissioners, and one Alderman from each ward to be elected annually on the second Monday in January in each year thereafter.

See 2d providing for the election by the Council of city clerk, assessors, market masters, water commissioners, almoner, marshals and police.

See 3d. Provides that the city council shall consist of three citizens from each ward, one alderman and two ward going out annually.

See 4d. Adds to the powers, or rather particularizes the power of the city over ditches, &c.

See 131. Defines the duties of city marshal.

See 135. Defines duties of city clerk.

See 189 changes the regulation in regard to the collection of taxes.

Sec. 230 defines duties of police and fixes salary of Recorder at \$1200 per annum.

We believe we have stated all of them. The most vital are the amendments to sections 5, 6, 33,

Section 5 as amended, provides for the election of a Mayor, Recorder, city councilmen, city collector, city treasurer, city engineer, city attorney, city physician, city marshal, and street commissioner, on the 2d Monday in January, 1875.

The charters as it stands provides only for the election of a Mayor and city council, at that time, therefore the election of all other officers was an unauthorized and illegal proceeding, innocently induced by our citizens in consequence of a want of proper knowledge on the part of the past administration and the 14th Democratic Legislature. The recorder, collector, treasurer, engineer, city attorney, city physician, city marshal and street commissioner have no more legal standing as officers than if they had been appointed by a mass meeting of our citizens to perform their duties, unless they had by virtue of a previous appointment.

See 33 makes the number of councilmen three in each ward, while the charter limits the number to two to each ward, but provides for distributing the city into wards of equal population and increasing the number to six. See the rise of the last administration gave three aldermen to each ward with regard to population, and while attempting to rectify the constitution in one particular, violated it in another. This amendment was a monstrous outrage, and we hear has filled the present city council.

What can be done is the question. It is a miserable entanglement, and at any moment, any citizen who refuses to be arrested, tried and fined, or to pay taxes, can test the strength of these amendments, and all that has been done under them. The best legal advice should be taken and a path out of the threatening difficulties marked out.

A portion of our city officials are only as mere officers, and this cloud should be removed. The city council is the chief mischief. The present city council might resign, or their offices be considered vacant and the Mayor could order an election under section 37, which reads:

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Or under section 21, which reads: "In case of the failure or refusal of the Mayor and City Council to act, then the Judge of the Superior Court of the County shall appoint the Judges of election."

We feel it to be our duty to discuss the question fairly and frankly and to probe it to the bottom. If the amendments are of no legal force it should be recognized at once and the work of fighting the matter entered upon with a spirit of candor and generosity. For our own part we are satisfied with the present officials with one or two exceptions; the City Council is proving itself to be a very efficient body, and if they could be voted in again we should not complain.

This question originated in the City Council, and one of its number has made an able, and, to our mind, incontrovertible report upon it, declaring the amendments *absit null and void*. The people expect you to meet it tactfully and patriotically and you will be sustained.

General News Items.

A STORY comes from Florida with the genuine flavor of romance. It seems that Cedar Keys an old Spaniard, calling himself Rio Delgado, made his appearance some time ago, and settled down as though impressed with the qualities of Cedar Keys as a place of residence. Many wondered at this, and asked him what led him to this seek a home among strangers, but now it seems that many years ago he was engaged in the occupation of a pirate, and while so engaged was a party to the burial of a large amount of treasure in the vicinity of Cedar Keys. Now the old man has come to look for the result of his enterprises in the past, and, it is reported, not without success. He has succeeded, it is said, in finding a treasure box, containing precious stones and old Spanish coins to the value of \$10,000, and experts to search still more carefully.

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