

passed be transmitted, with copies of this report, to our Senators and Representatives in Congress.

A. FINKELNBURG, *Chairman.*

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[No. 20, S.]

JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 3.

Ratifying amendments to section 4 of article VI, section 12 of article VII, and section 1 of article XIII of the constitution of the State of Wisconsin, so as to provide for biennial general elections.

WHEREAS, At the annual session of the legislature of this state for the year 1881, an amendment to the constitution of this state was proposed and agreed to by a majority of the members elected to each of the two houses, which amendment was in the following language :

*Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring,* That section 4 of article VI of the constitution of the state of Wisconsin, be so amended as to read as follows :

SECTION 4. Sheriffs, coroners, registers of deeds, district attorneys and all other county officers, except judicial officers, shall be chosen by the electors of the respective counties, once in every two years. Sheriffs shall hold no other office and be ineligible for two years next succeeding the termination of their offices ; they may be required by law to renew their security from time to time, and in default of giving such new security their office shall be deemed vacant ; but the county shall never be made responsible for the acts of the sheriff. The governor may remove any officer in this section mentioned, giving to such a copy of the charges against him and an opportunity of being heard in his defense. All vacancies shall be filled by appointment, and the person appointed to fill a vacancy shall hold only for the unexpired portion of the term to which he shall be appointed and until his successor shall be elected and qualified.

That section 12, article VII of said constitution, be so amended as to read as follows :

SECTION 12. There shall be a clerk of the circuit court chosen in each county organized for judicial purposes, by the qualified electors thereof, who shall hold his office for two years, subject to removal as shall be provided by law. In case of a vacancy, the judge of the circuit court shall have power to appoint a clerk until the vacancy shall be filled by an election. The clerk thus elected or appointed shall give such security as the legislature may require. The supreme court shall appoint its own clerk, and a clerk of the circuit court may be appointed a clerk of the supreme court.

That section 1, article XIII of said constitution, be so amended as to read as follows:

SECTION 1. The political year for the state of Wisconsin shall commence on the first Monday in January in each year, and the general elections shall be holden on the Tuesday next succeeding the first Monday in November. The first general election for all state and county officers, except judicial officers, after the adoption of this amendment, shall be holden in the year A. D. 1884, and thereafter the general election shall be held biennially. All state, county or other officers, elected at the general election in the year 1881, and whose term of office would otherwise expire on the first Monday of January in the year 1884, shall hold and continue in such offices respectively, until the first Monday in January in the year 1885.

*Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring,* That the foregoing amendments to the constitution be and the same are hereby agreed to by this legislature.

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[No. 22, S.]

#### JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 4.

In relation to the swamp and overflowed land fund.

WHEREAS, owing to the excessive floods of the past few years and the consequent damage and distress suffered by the inhabitants and owners of lands adjacent to streams liable to overflow, applications for aid and relief have been made to the legislature in different forms; and

WHEREAS, it may be thought desirable to render such aid and protection as far as practicable, from the swamp and overflowed fund; and

WHEREAS, the condition of said fund and the laws and regulations in relation to the same are not generally well known and understood, and it is not practicable for all interested to make the investigation necessary for full and correct information concerning the same, therefore,

*Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring,* that the secretary of state is hereby requested, at as early a day as possible, to collect and cause to be printed copies of the original grant made by the United States government to the state of Wisconsin, of swamp and overflowed lands, and of all the laws of the United States and of this state directly pertaining to this subject, together with all decisions of the department of the interior, and messages of the governors of this state in relation thereto, and also such correspondence between this state and the government of the united States respecting the acceptance and selection of such lands as he shall deem