



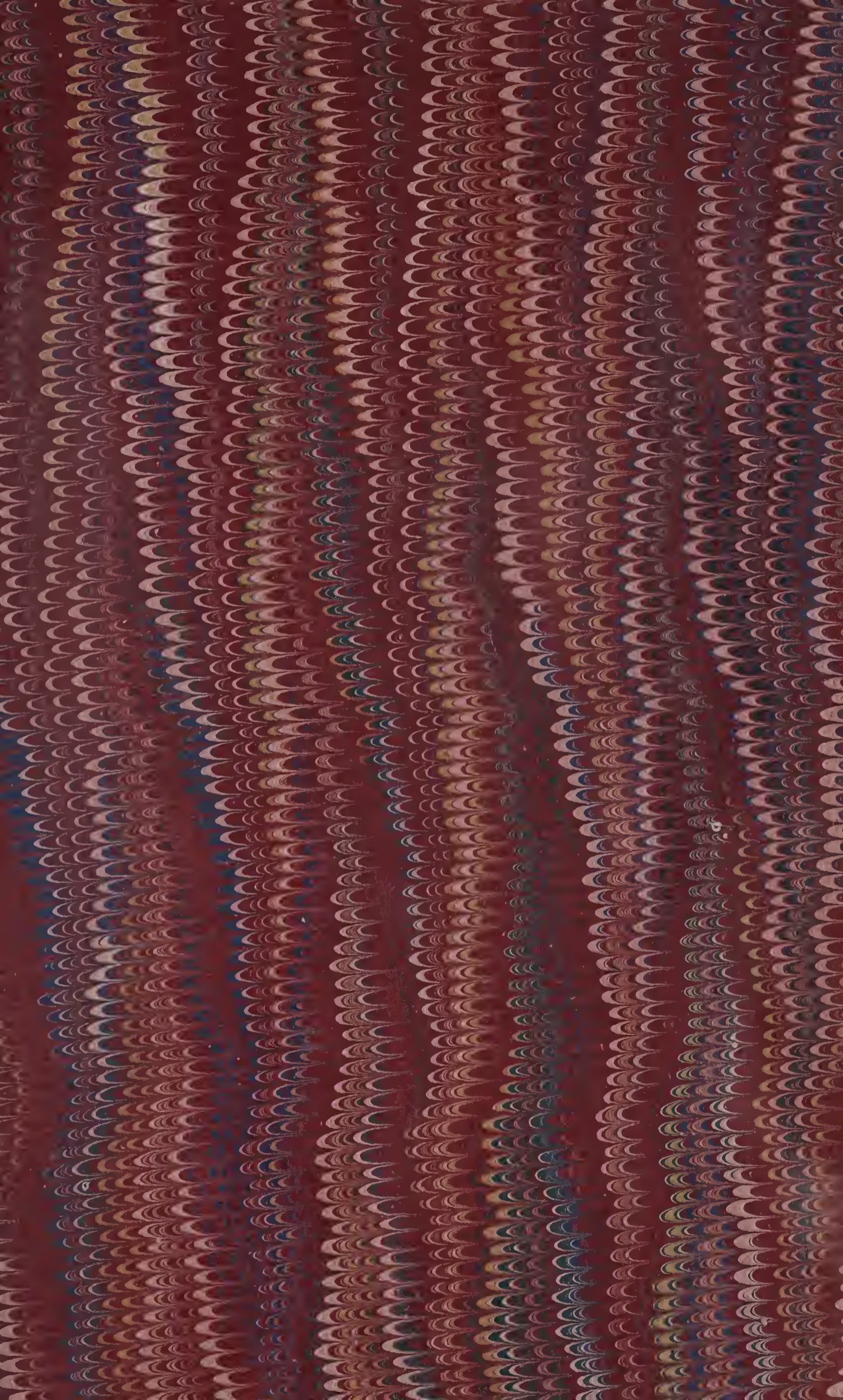
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CONSTITUTION

OF THE

STATE OF TEXAS,

ADOPTED BY THE

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION,

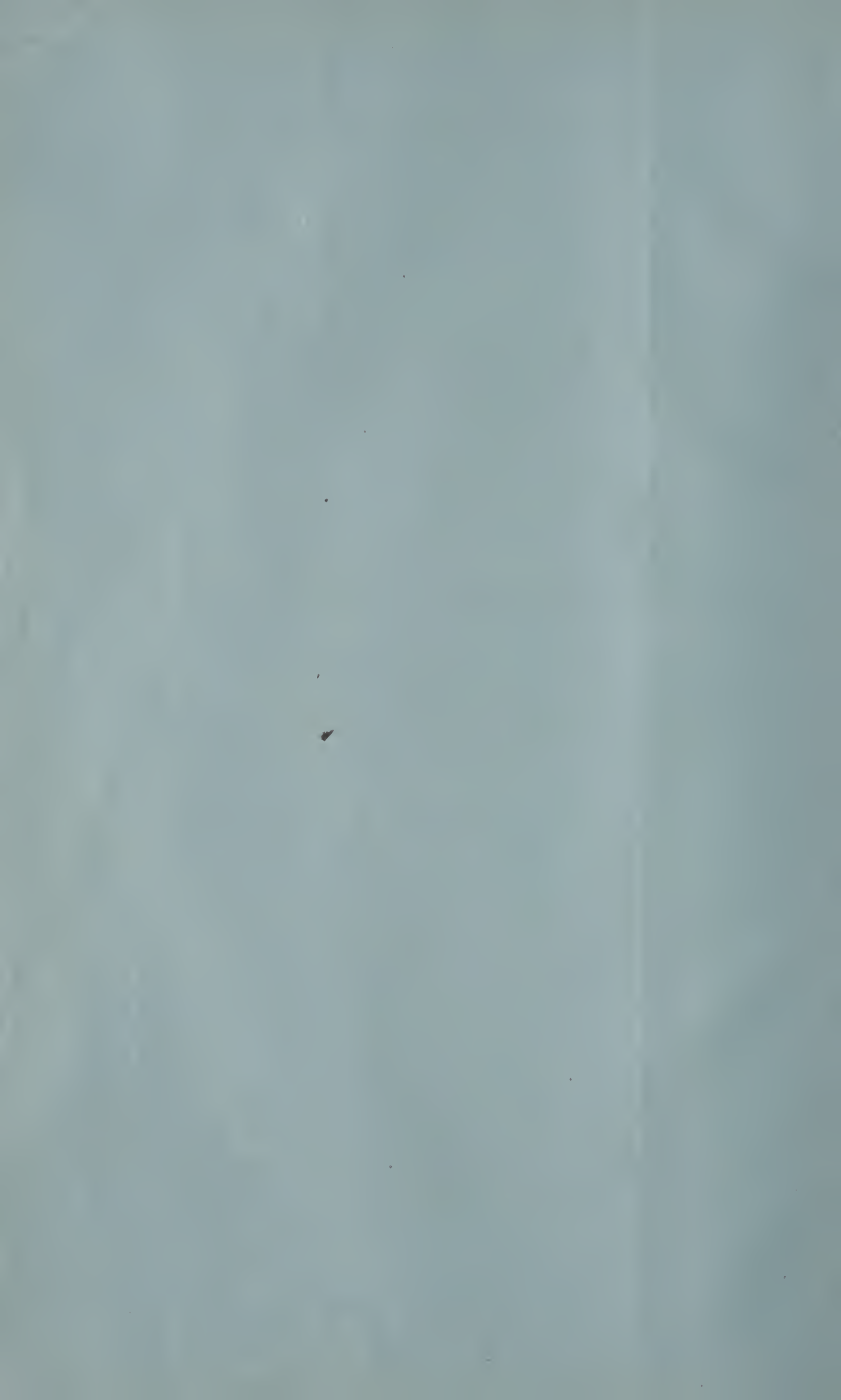
CONVENED AT AUSTIN SEPTEMBER 6, 1875, AND RATIFIED  
BY THE PEOPLE FEBRUARY 15, 1876.

HOUSTON:

HOUSTON TELEGRAPH STEAM PRINT.

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# CONSTITUTION.



## PREAMBLE.

Humbly invoking the blessing of Almighty Preamble.  
God, the people of the State of Texas do ordain  
and establish this Constitution.

## ARTICLE I.

### BILL OF RIGHTS.

That the general, great and essential principles Declaration.  
of liberty and free government may be recognized  
and established, we declare :

SECTION 1. Texas is a free and independent Texas free and independent.  
State, subject only to the Constitution of the  
United States ; and the maintenance of our free  
institutions and the perpetuity of the Union de- Perpetuity of the Union.  
pend upon the preservation of the right of local  
self-government unimpaired to all the States.

SEC. 2. All political power is inherent in the Political power inherent in the people.  
people, and all free governments are founded on  
their authority, and instituted for their benefit.  
The faith of the people of Texas stands pledged  
to the preservation of a republican form of gov- Republican government.  
ernment, and, subject to this limitation only,  
they have at all times the inalienable right to  
alter, reform or abolish their government in such  
manner as they may think expedient.

SEC. 3. All free men when they form a social Equal rights.  
compact, have equal rights, and no man, or set  
of men, is entitled to exclusive separate public  
emoluments, or privileges, but in consideration  
of public services.



No religious test  
for officers.

SEC. 4. No religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office, or public trust, in this State ; nor shall any one be excluded from holding office on account of his religious sentiments, provided he acknowledge the existence of a Supreme Being.

Nor for wit-  
nesses.

SEC. 5. No person shall be disqualified to give evidence in any of the courts of this State on account of his religious opinions, or for the want of any religious belief, but all oaths or affirmations shall be administered in the mode most binding upon the conscience, and shall be taken subject to the pains and penalties of perjury.

Freedom in reli-  
gious worship  
guaranteed and  
to be protected.

SEC. 6. All men have a natural and indefeasible right to worship Almighty God according to the dictates of their own consciences. No man shall be compelled to attend, erect or support any place of worship, or to maintain any ministry against his consent. No human authority ought, in any case whatever, to control or interfere with the rights of conscience in matters of religion, and no preference shall ever be given by law to any religious society or mode of worship. But it shall be the duty of the Legislature to pass such laws as may be necessary to protect equally every religious denomination in the peaceable enjoyment of its own mode of public worship.

No appropriation  
for sectarian  
purposes.

SEC. 7. No money shall be appropriated or drawn from the treasury for the benefit of any sect, or religious society, theological or religious seminary ; nor shall property belonging to the State be appropriated for any such purposes.

Liberty of  
speech and press  
guaranteed.

SEC. 8. Every person shall be at liberty to speak, write or publish his opinions on any subject, being responsible for the abuse of that privilege ; and no law shall ever be passed curtailing the liberty of speech or of the press. In prosecutions for the publication of papers investigating the conduct of officers or men in public capacity, or when the matter published is proper

for public information, the truth thereof may be given in evidence. And in all indictments for libels the jury shall have the right to determine the law and the facts, under the direction of the court, as in other cases.

Right of jury in  
indictments for  
libels.

SEC. 9. The people shall be secure in their persons, houses, papers and possessions from all unreasonable seizures or searches, and no warrant to search any place, or to seize any person or thing, shall issue without describing them as near as may be, nor without probable cause supported by oath or affirmation.

Guarantee  
against unrea-  
sonable seizures  
and searches.

SEC. 10. In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall have a speedy public trial by an impartial jury. He shall have the right to demand the nature and cause of the accusation against him, and to have a copy thereof. He shall not be compelled to give evidence against himself. He shall have the right of being heard by himself or counsel or both ; shall be confronted with the witnesses against him, and shall have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor. And no person shall be held to answer for a criminal offense, unless on indictment of a grand jury, except in cases in which the punishment is by fine, or imprisonment otherwise than in the penitentiary, in cases of impeachment, and in cases arising in the army or navy, or in the militia, when in actual service in time of war or public danger.

Guarantees in  
criminal prose-  
cutions.

SEC. 11. All prisoners shall be bailable by sufficient sureties, unless for capital offenses when the proof is evident ; but this provision shall not be so construed as to prevent bail after indictment found, upon examination of the evidence in such manner as may be prescribed by law.

Bail.

SEC. 12. The writ of *habeas corpus* is a writ of right, and shall never be suspended. The Legislature shall enact laws to render the remedy speedy and effectual.

Habeas corpus.

SEC. 13. Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel or unusual

Excessive bail,  
excessive fines



and cruel punishments forbidden.  
Courts open to all.

punishment inflicted. All courts shall be open, and every person for an injury done him in his lands, goods, person or reputation shall have remedy by due course of law.

But one trial for same offense.

SEC. 14. No person, for the same offense, shall be twice put in jeopardy of life or liberty ; nor shall a person be again put upon trial for the same offense after a verdict of not guilty in a court of competent jurisdiction.

Right of trial by jury inviolate.

SEC. 15. The right of trial by jury shall remain inviolate. The Legislature shall pass such laws as may be needed to regulate the same, and to maintain its purity and efficiency.

Bills of attainder, *ex post facto* laws, etc., forbidden.

SEC. 16. No bill of attainder, *ex post facto* law, retroactive law, or any law impairing the obligation of contracts, shall be made.

In the exercise of eminent domain, adequate compensation to be made.

SEC. 17. No person's property shall be taken, damaged or destroyed for or applied to public use without adequate compensation being made, unless by the consent of such person ; and, when taken, except for the use of the State, such compensation shall be first made, or secured by a deposit of money ; and no irrevocable or uncontrollable grant of special privileges or immunities shall be made ; but all privileges and franchises granted by the Legislature or created under its authority shall be subject to the control thereof.

Legislature to have control of privileges and franchises.

No imprisonment for debt.

SEC. 18. No person shall ever be imprisoned for debt.

Rights guaranteed.

SEC. 19. No citizen of this State shall be deprived of life, liberty, property, privileges or immunities, or in any manner disfranchised, except by the due course of the law of the land.

No outlawry or transportation.

SEC. 20. No person shall be outlawed ; nor shall any person be transported out of the State for any offense committed within the same.

No corruption of blood or forfeiture of estates.

SEC. 21. No conviction shall work corruption of blood, or forfeiture of estate ; and the estates

of those who destroy their own lives shall descend or vest as in case of natural death. Suicides.

SEC. 22. Treason against the State shall consist only in levying war against it, or adhering to its enemies, giving them aid and comfort; and no person shall be convicted of treason except on the testimony of two witnesses to the same overt act, or on confession in open court. Treason defined.  
Two witnesses or confession.

SEC. 23. Every citizen shall have the right to keep and bear arms in the lawful defense of himself or the State; but the Legislature shall have power by law to regulate the wearing of arms with a view to prevent crime. Right to bear arms.  
Wearing of arms may be regulated.

SEC. 24. The military shall at all times be subordinate to the civil authority. Military to be subordinate to civil authority.

SEC. 25. No soldier shall in time of peace be quartered in the house of any citizen without the consent of the owner, nor in time of war but in a manner prescribed by law. Quartering of soldiers.

SEC. 26. Perpetuities and monopolies are contrary to the genius of a free government, and shall never be allowed; nor shall the law of primogeniture or entailments ever be in force in this State. Perpetuities and monopolies, law of primogeniture and entailment forbidden.

SEC. 27. The citizens shall have the right, in a peaceable manner, to assemble together for their common good, and apply to those invested with the power of government for redress of grievances or other purposes, by petition, address or remonstrance. Right of assembling and petitioning guaranteed.

SEC. 28. No power of suspending laws in this State shall be exercised except by the Legislature. Legislature only may suspend laws.

SEC. 29. To guard against transgressions of the high powers herein delegated, we declare that everything in this "Bill of Rights" is excepted out of the general powers of government, and shall forever remain inviolate, and all laws contrary thereto, or to the following provisions, shall be void. "Bill of Rights" inviolate.



## ARTICLE II.

## THE POWERS OF GOVERNMENT.

Three departments of government.

Legislative.

Executive.

Judicial.

Departments to be kept distinct.

SECTION 1. The powers of the government of the State of Texas shall be divided into three distinct departments, each of which shall be confided to a separate body of magistracy, to-wit: Those which are legislative to one, those which are executive to another, and those which are judicial to another; and no person, or collection of persons, being of one of these departments, shall exercise any power properly attached to either of the others, except in the instances herein expressly permitted.

## ARTICLE III.

## LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT.

"The Legislature of the State of Texas."

SECTION 1. The legislative power of this State shall be vested in a Senate and House of Representatives, which together shall be styled "The Legislature of the State of Texas."

The Senate—  
thirty one  
members.  
House of Representatives.

Ninety-three  
members  
*minimum*.

One hundred  
and fifty *maximum*.

SEC. 2. The Senate shall consist of thirty-one members, and shall never be increased above this number. The House of Representatives shall consist of ninety-three members until the first apportionment after the adoption of this Constitution, when, or at any apportionment thereafter, the number of representatives may be increased by the Legislature, upon the ratio of not more than one representative for every fifteen thousand inhabitants, *provided*, the number of representatives shall never exceed one hundred and fifty.

Senators, how  
chosen.

New senators after new apportionment.

To be classified.

SEC. 3. The senators shall be chosen by the qualified electors for the term of four years; but a new Senate shall be chosen after every apportionment, and the senators elected after each apportionment shall be divided by lot into two classes. The seats of the senators of the first class shall be vacated at the expiration of the first two years, and those of the second class at

the expiration of four years, so that one-half of the senators shall be chosen biennially thereafter.

One-half to be chosen biennially.

SEC. 4. The members of the House of Representatives shall be chosen by the qualified electors, and their term of office shall be two years from the day of their election.

Representatives, how chosen. Term.

SEC. 5. The Legislature shall meet every two years, at such time as may be provided by law, and at other times when convened by the Governor.

Legislature. Biennial. Governor may convene.

SEC. 6. No person shall be a senator, unless he be a citizen of the United States, and, at the time of his election a qualified elector of this State, and shall have been a resident of this State five years next preceding his election, and the last year thereof a resident of the district for which he shall be chosen, and shall have attained the age of twenty-six years.

Qualifications required for senator.

SEC. 7. No person shall be a representative, unless he be a citizen of the United States, and, at the time of his election a qualified elector of this State, and shall have been a resident of this State two years next preceding his election, the last year thereof a resident of the district for which he shall be chosen, and shall have attained the age of twenty-one years.

Qualifications for representatives.

SEC. 8. Each house shall be the judge of the qualifications and election of its own members; but contested elections shall be determined in such manner as shall be provided by law.

Each house to be judge of elections of members. Contested elections.

SEC. 9. The Senate shall, at the beginning and close of each session, and at such other times as may be necessary, elect one of its members President, *pro tempore*, who shall perform the duties of the lieutenant governor in any case of absence or disability of that officer, and whenever the said office of lieutenant governor shall be vacant. The House of Representatives shall, when it first assembles, organize temporarily, and thereupon proceed to the election of a

Senate to elect a president *pro tem*.

His duties.

House to elect Speaker.



speaker from its own members ; and each house shall choose its other officers.

Two-thirds a quorum ; smaller number may adjourn and compel attendance.

SEC. 10. Two-thirds of each house shall constitute a quorum to do business, but a smaller number may adjourn from day to day, and compel the attendance of absent members, in such manner and under such penalties as each house may provide.

Rules.  
May punish.

SEC. 11. Each house may determine the rules of its own proceedings, punish members for disorderly conduct, and, with the consent of two-thirds, expel a member, but not a second time for the same offense.

Journals to be kept and published.  
Yeas and nays.

SEC. 12. Each house shall keep a journal of its proceedings, and publish the same ; and the yeas and nays of the members of either house on any question shall, at the desire of any three members present, be entered on the journals.

Vacancies, how filled.

SEC. 13. When vacancies occur in either house, the governor, or the person exercising the power of the governor, shall issue writs of election to fill such vacancies ; and should the governor fail to issue a writ of election to fill any such vacancy within twenty days after it occurs, the returning officer of the district in which such vacancy may have happened shall be authorized to order an election for that purpose.

Privileged from arrest.

SEC. 14. Senators and representatives shall, except in cases of treason, felony or breach of the peace, be privileged from arrest during the session of the Legislature, and in going to and returning from the same, allowing one day for every twenty miles such member may reside from the place at which the Legislature is convened.

May punish disorderly conduct.

SEC. 15. Each house may punish, by imprisonment, during its sessions, any person not a member, for disrespectful or disorderly conduct in its presence, or for obstructing any of its proceedings ; *provided*, such imprisonment shall not, at any one time, exceed forty-eight hours.

SEC. 16. The sessions of each house shall be open, except the Senate when in executive session.

No secret sessions.  
Exception.

SEC. 17. Neither house shall, without the consent of the other, adjourn for more than three days, nor to any other place than that where the Legislature may be sitting.

No adjournment exceeding three days, nor to other place without concurrence.

SEC. 18. No senator or representative shall, during the term for which he may be elected, be eligible to any civil office of profit under this State which shall have been created or the emoluments of which may have been increased during such term; no member of either house shall, during the term for which he is elected, be eligible to any office or place, the appointment to which may be made, in whole or in part, by either branch of the Legislature; and no member of either house shall vote for any other member for any office whatever, which may be filled by a vote of the Legislature, except in such cases as are in this Constitution provided. Nor shall any member of the Legislature be interested, either directly or indirectly, in any contract with the State, or any county thereof, authorized by any law passed during the term for which he shall have been elected.

Ineligibility of members,

When eligible.  
Shall not be voted for.

Shall not be interested in public contracts.

SEC. 19. No judge of any court, secretary of state, attorney general, clerk of any court of record, or any person holding a lucrative office under the United States, or this State, or any foreign government shall, during the term for which he is elected or appointed, be eligible to the Legislature.

What officers ineligible to Legislature.

SEC. 20. No person who at any time may have been a collector of taxes, or who may have been otherwise entrusted with public money, shall be eligible to the Legislature, or to any office of profit or trust under the State government, until he shall have obtained a discharge for the amount of such collections, or for all public moneys with which he may have been entrusted.

Receivers and disbursers of public funds ineligible until discharged.



Freedom in debate.

SEC. 21. No member shall be questioned in any other place for words spoken in debate in either house.

Personal interest to be disclosed and having, not to vote.

SEC. 22. A member who has a personal or private interest in any measure or bill, proposed, or pending before the Legislature, shall disclose the fact to the house, of which he is a member, and shall not vote thereon.

Removal vacates office.

SEC. 23. If any senator or representative remove his residence from the district or county for which he was elected, his office shall thereby become vacant, and the vacancy shall be filled as provided in section 13 of this article.

Per diem.

SEC. 24. The members of the Legislature shall receive from the public treasury such compensation for their services, as may, from time to time, be provided by law, not exceeding five dollars per day for the first sixty days of each session; and after that not exceeding two dollars per day for the remainder of the session; except the first session held under this Constitution, when they may receive not exceeding five dollars per day for the first ninety days, and after that not exceeding two dollars per day for the remainder of the session. In addition to the per diem the members of each house shall be entitled to mileage in going to and returning from the seat of government, which mileage shall not exceed five dollars for every twenty-five miles, the distance to be computed by the nearest and most direct route of travel by land regardless of railways or water routes; and the comptroller of the State shall prepare and preserve a table of distances to each county seat now or hereafter to be established and by such table the mileage of each member shall be paid; but no member shall be entitled to mileage for any extra session that may be called within one day after the adjournment of a regular or called session.

Five dollars.

After sixty days two dollars.

Mileage.

Senatorial districts, how apportioned.

SEC. 25. The State shall be divided into senatorial districts of contiguous territory according to the number of qualified electors, as nearly

as may be, and each district shall be entitled to elect one senator, and no single county shall be entitled to more than one senator.

No single county more than one senator.

SEC. 26. The members of the House of Representatives shall be apportioned among the several counties, according to the number of population in each, as nearly as may be, on a ratio obtained by dividing the population of the State, as ascertained by the most recent United States census, by the number of members of which the house is composed; *provided*, that whenever a single county has sufficient population to be entitled to a representative, such county shall be formed into a separate representative district, and when two or more counties are required to make up the ratio of representation such counties shall be contiguous to each other; and when any one county has more than sufficient population to be entitled to one or more representatives, such representative or representatives shall be apportioned to such county, and for any surplus of population it may be joined in a representative district with any other contiguous county or counties.

Representatives, how apportioned.

SEC. 27. Elections for senators and representatives shall be general throughout the State, and shall be regulated by law.

Elections for members shall be general.

SEC. 28. The Legislature shall, at its first session after the publication of each United States decennial census, apportion the State into senatorial and representative districts, agreeably to the provisions of sections 25 and 26 of this Article; and until the next decennial census, when the first apportionment shall be made by the Legislature, the State shall be, and it is hereby divided into senatorial and representative districts as provided by an ordinance of the Convention on that subject.

When apportionment shall be made.

No apportionment until after next United States census.

#### PROCEEDINGS.

SEC. 29. The enacting clause of all laws shall be, "Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas."

Enacting clause of laws.



Laws to be passed by bills. Original purpose of, not to be changed by amendment.

SEC. 30. No law shall be passed except by bill, and no bill shall be so amended in its passage through either house as to change its original purpose.

May originate in either house, altered, amended or rejected,

SEC. 31. Bills may originate in either house, and when passed by such house may be amended, altered or rejected by the other.

Bills, how passed.

Restrictions.

SEC. 32. No bill shall have the force of law until it has been read, on three several days in each house, and free discussion allowed thereon; but in cases of imperative public necessity (which necessity shall be stated in a preamble, or in the body of the bill), four-fifths of the house in which the bill may be pending may suspend this rule, the yeas and nays being taken on the question of suspension, and entered upon the journals.

Revenue bills.

SEC. 33. All bills for raising revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives, but the Senate may amend or reject them as other bills.

Defeated bills and resolutions.

SEC. 34. After a bill has been considered and defeated by either house of the Legislature no bill containing the same substance shall be passed into a law during the same session. After a resolution has been acted on and defeated no resolution containing the same substance shall be considered at the same session.

Bills to contain but one subject. Exception.

SEC. 35. No bill (except general appropriation bills, which may embrace the various subjects and accounts for and on account of which moneys are appropriated) shall contain more than one subject, which shall be expressed in its title. But if any subject shall be embraced in an act which shall not be expressed in the title, such act shall be void only as to so much thereof as shall not be so expressed.

Laws, revived and amended, to be re-enacted.

SEC. 36. No law shall be revived or amended by reference to its title; but in such case the act revived or the section or sections amended shall be re-enacted and published at length.

SEC. 37. No bill shall be considered, unless it has been first referred to a committee and reported thereon; and no bill shall be passed which has not been presented and referred to and reported from a committee at least three days before the final adjournment of the Legislature.

Reference to and report from committee necessary, and three days before adjournment.

SEC. 38. The presiding officer of each house shall, in the presence of the house over which he presides, sign all bills and joint resolutions passed by the Legislature, after their titles have been publicly read before signing; and the fact of signing shall be entered on the journals.

Bills and joint resolutions, how to be signed.

Signing to be noted on journal.

SEC. 39. No law passed by the Legislature, except the general appropriation act, shall take effect or go into force until ninety days after the adjournment of the session at which it was enacted, unless in case of an emergency, which emergency must be expressed, in a preamble or in the body of the act, the Legislature shall, by a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, otherwise direct; said vote to be taken by yeas and nays, and entered upon the journals.

When laws to take effect.

Exceptions, and in emergencies how passed.

SEC. 40. When the Legislature shall be convened in special session, there shall be no legislation upon subjects other than those designated in the proclamation of the governor calling such session, or presented to them by the governor; and no such session shall be of longer duration than thirty days.

Special sessions.

Only special business.

SEC. 41. In all elections by the Senate and House of Representatives, jointly or separately, the vote shall be given *viva voce*, except in the election of their officers.

*Viva voce* votes, except in elections for their officers.

#### REQUIREMENTS AND LIMITATIONS.

SEC. 42. The Legislature shall pass such laws as may be necessary to carry into effect the provisions of this Constitution.

To enforce constitutional provisions.



First Legisla-  
ture to provide  
for revision of  
laws, and every  
ten years.

SEC. 43. The first session of the Legislature under this Constitution shall provide for revising, digesting and publishing the laws, civil and criminal; and a like revision, digest and publication may be made every ten years thereafter; *provided*, that in the adoption of and giving effect to any such digest or revision, the Legislature shall not be limited by sections 35 and 36 of this Article.

Compensation of  
officers.

SEC. 44. The Legislature shall provide by law for the compensation of all officers, servants, agents and public contractors, not provided for in this Constitution, but shall not grant extra compensation to any officer, agent, servant, or public contractors, after such public service shall have been performed or contract entered into for the performance of the same; nor grant, by appropriation or otherwise, any amount of money out of the treasury of the State, to any individual, on a claim, real or pretended, when the same shall not have been provided for by pre-existing law; nor employ any one in the name of the State unless authorized by pre-existing law.

No allowance to  
be made for ex-  
tra compensa-  
tion.

No appropria-  
tion except in  
pursuance of pre-  
existing laws.

Change of venue  
vested in courts  
only.

SEC. 45. The power to change the venue in civil and criminal cases shall be vested in the courts, to be exercised in such manner as shall be provided by law; and the Legislature shall pass laws for that purpose.

To enact vagrant  
laws.

SEC. 46. The Legislature shall, at its first session after the adoption of this Constitution, enact effective vagrant laws.

Lotteries and  
evasions thereof  
to be prohibited.

SEC. 47. The Legislature shall pass laws prohibiting the establishment of lotteries and gift enterprises in this State, as well as the sale of tickets in lotteries, gift enterprises or other evasions involving the lottery principle, established or existing in other States.

Taxation only  
for administra-  
tion of govern-  
ment.

SEC. 48. The Legislature shall not have the right to levy taxes or impose burdens upon the people, except to raise revenue sufficient for the

economical administration of the government, in which may be included the following purposes :

The payment of all interest upon the bonded debt of the State ; Interest.

The erection and repairs of public buildings ; Public buildings ;

The benefit of the sinking fund, which shall not be more than two per centum of the public debt ; and for the payment of the present floating debt of the State, including matured bonds for the payment of which the sinking fund is inadequate ; Sinking fund of two per cent. Floating debt.

The support of public schools, in which shall be included colleges and universities established by the State ; and the maintenance and support of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas ; Public schools, colleges and universities.

The payment of the cost of assessing and collecting the revenue ; and the payment of all officers, agents and employès of the State government, and all incidental expenses connected therewith ; Costs of collecting. Officers salaries. Incidentals.

The support of the Blind Asylum, the Deaf and Dumb Asylum, and the Insane Asylum, the State Cemetery and the public grounds of the State ; State asylums, cemetery and public grounds.

The enforcement of quarantine regulations on the coast of Texas ; Quarantine.

The protection of the frontier. Frontier protection.

SEC. 49. No debt shall be created by or on behalf of the State, except to supply casual deficiencies of the revenue, repel invasion, suppress insurrection, defend the State in war, or pay existing debt ; and the debt created to supply deficiencies in the revenue, shall never exceed in the aggregate at any one time two hundred thousand dollars. Limitations and restrictions upon the creation of the public debt.

SEC. 50. The Legislature shall have no power to give or to lend, or to authorize the giving or lending, of the credit of the State in aid of, or to any person, association or corporation, whether municipal or other ; or to pledge the credit of the State in any manner whatsoever, for the payment of the liabilities, present or prospective, of any individual, association of individuals, municipal or other corporation whatsoever. Prohibitions against the use of the credit of the State.



Public money not to be granted.  
 Exception.  
 Public calamity.

SEC. 51. The Legislature shall have no power to make any grant, or authorize the making of any grant, of public money to any individual, association of individuals, municipal or other corporation whatsoever; *provided*, that this shall not be so construed as to prevent the grant of aid in case of public calamity.

Subsidies by political corporation prohibited and shall not become stock-holders.

SEC. 52. The Legislature shall have no power to authorize any county, city, town, or other political corporation, or sub-division of the State, to lend its credit or to grant public money or thing of value, in aid of or to any individual, association, or corporation whatsoever; or to become a stock-holder in such corporation, association or company.

Extra compensation shall not be made by political corporations.

SEC. 53. The Legislature shall have no power to grant, or to authorize any county or municipal authority to grant, any extra compensation, fee or allowance to a public officer, agent, servant or contractor, after service has been rendered, or a contract has been entered into, and performed in whole or in part; nor pay, nor authorize the payment of, any claim created against any county or municipality of the State, under any agreement or contract, made without authority of law.

No release or alienation of State lien on railroads.

SEC. 54. The Legislature shall have no power to release or alienate any lien held by the State upon any railroad, or in anywise change the tenor or meaning, or pass any act explanatory thereof; but the same shall be enforced in accordance with the original terms upon which it was acquired.

Obligations to State, county, etc., not to be released by legislation.

SEC. 55. The Legislature shall have no power to release or extinguish, or to authorize the releasing or extinguishing, in whole or in part, the indebtedness, liability or obligation of any incorporation or individual to this State, or to any county, or other municipal corporation therein.

SEC. 56. The Legislature shall not, except as

otherwise provided in this Constitution, pass any local or special law, authorizing :	No local or special laws, in enumerated laws.
The creation, extension or impairing of liens ;	Liens.
Regulating the affairs of counties, cities, towns, wards or school districts ;	County affairs,
Changing the name of persons or places ;	Changing name.
changing the venue in civil or criminal cases ;	
Authorizing the laying out, opening, altering or maintaining of roads, highways, streets or alleys ;	Roads, etc.
Relating to ferries and bridges, or incorporating ferry or bridge companies, except for the erection of bridges crossing streams which form boundaries between this and any other State ;	Ferries and bridges.
Vacating roads, town plats, streets or alleys ;	Vacating roads etc.
Relating to cemeteries, grave yards or public grounds not of the State ;	Cemeteries.
Authorizing the adoption or legitimation of children ;	Adoption.
Locating or changing county seats ;	County seats.
Incorporating cities, towns or villages, or changing their charters ;	Municipal charters.
For the opening and conducting of elections, or fixing or changing the places of voting ;	Elections.
Granting divorces ;	Divorces.
Creating offices, or prescribing the powers and duties of officers, in counties, cities, towns, election or school districts ;	Official duties.
Changing the law of descent or succession ;	Descent.
Regulating the practice or jurisdiction of, or changing the rules of evidence in any judicial proceeding or inquiry before courts, justices of the peace, sheriffs, commissioners, arbitrators or other tribunals, or providing or changing methods for the collection of debts, or the enforcing of judgments, or prescribing the effect of judicial sales of real estate ;	Courts and judicial proceedings.
Regulating the fees, or extending the powers and duties of aldermen, justices of the peace, magistrates or constables ;	Fees and duties of aldermen and magistrates.
Regulating the management of public schools, the building or repairing of school houses, and the raising of money for such purposes ;	Public schools.
Fixing the rate of interest ;	Interest.
Affecting the estates of minors, or persons under disability ;	Minors.



Remitting fines.	Remitting fines, penalties and forfeitures, and refunding moneys legally paid into the treasury ;
Exemptions.	Exempting property from taxation ;
Regulating labor.	Regulating labor, trade, mining and manufacturing ;
Removing disabilities.	Declaring any named person of age ;
Extending time.	Extending the time for the assessment or collection of taxes, or otherwise relieving any assessor or collector of taxes from the due performance of his official duties, or his securities from liability ;
Validating instruments.	Giving effect to informal or invalid wills or deeds ;
Summoning juries.	Summoning or impanneling grand or petit juries ;
Limitations.	For limitation of civil or criminal actions ;
Incorporating companies.	For incorporating railroads or other work of internal improvements ;
Special law prohibited when general law applicable.	And in all other cases where a general law can be made applicable, no local or special law shall be enacted ; <i>provided</i> , that nothing herein contained shall be construed to prohibit the Legislature from passing special laws for the preservation of the game and fish of this State in certain localities.

Publication for thirty days before special bill introduced.

SEC. 57. No local or special law shall be passed, unless notice of the intention to apply therefor shall have been published in the locality where the matter or thing to be affected may be situated, which notice shall state the substance of the contemplated law, and shall be published at least thirty days prior to the introduction into the Legislature of such bill and in the manner to be provided by law. The evidence of such notice having been published shall be exhibited in the Legislature before such act shall be passed.

Austin, the Seat of Government.

SEC. 58. The Legislature shall hold its sessions at the city of Austin, which is hereby declared to be the Seat of Government.

## ARTICLE IV.

## EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT.

SECTION 1. The executive department of the State shall consist of a governor, who shall be the chief executive officer of the State, a lieutenant-governor, secretary of State, comptroller of public accounts, treasurer, commissioner of the general land office and attorney general.

The executive department, governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of State, comptroller, treasurer, commissioner of land office, attorney general.

SEC. 2. All the above officers of the executive department (except secretary of state) shall be elected by the qualified voters of the State at the time and places of election for members of the Legislature.

Election, except secretary of State.

SEC. 3. The returns of every election for said executive officers, until otherwise provided by law, shall be made out, sealed up and transmitted by the returning officers prescribed by law, to the seat of government, directed to the secretary of state, who shall deliver the same to the speaker of the house of representatives, as soon as the speaker shall be chosen; and the said speaker shall, during the first week of the session of the Legislature, open and publish them in the presence of both houses of the Legislature. The person, voted for at said election, having the highest number of votes for each of said offices respectively, and being constitutionally eligible, shall be declared by the speaker, under sanction of the Legislature, to be elected to said office. But if two or more persons shall have the highest and an equal number of votes for either of said offices one of them shall be immediately chosen to such office by joint vote of both houses of the legislature. Contested elections for either of said offices shall be determined by both houses of the Legislature in joint session.

Election returns to be delivered to speaker.

How to be opened and published.

When a tie Legislature to elect one of them.

When contested.

SEC. 4. The governor shall be installed on the first Tuesday after the organization of the Legislature, or as soon thereafter as practicable, and shall hold his office for the term of two years,

Governor, when to be installed.

Term.



Qualification. or until his successor shall be duly installed. He shall be at least thirty years of age, a citizen of the United States, and shall have resided in this State at least five years immediately preceding his election.

Governor's salary. SEC. 5. He shall at stated times, receive as compensation for his services an annual salary of four thousand dollars and no more, and shall have the use and occupation of the governor's mansion, fixtures and furniture.

Shall hold no other office, practice no profession. Receive no fee or reward for any service during term. SEC. 6. During the time he holds the office of governor he shall not hold any other office, civil, military, or corporate; nor shall he practice any profession, and receive compensation, reward, fee, or the promise thereof for the same; nor receive any salary, reward, or compensation, or the promise thereof, from any person or corporation, for any service rendered or performed during the time he is governor, or to be thereafter rendered or performed.

Commander in chief. SEC. 7. He shall be commander-in-chief of the military forces of the State, except when they are called into actual service of the United States. He shall have power to call forth the militia to execute the laws of the State, to suppress insurrections, repel invasions, and protect the frontier from hostile incursions by Indians or other predatory bands.

May convene Legislature. SEC. 8. The governor may, on extraordinary occasions, convene the Legislature at the seat of government, or at a different place in case that should be in possession of the public enemy or in case of the prevalence of disease thereat. His proclamation therefor shall state specifically the purpose for which the Legislature is convened.

His message. SEC. 9. The governor shall, at the commencement of each session of the Legislature, and at the close of his term of office, give to the Legislature information, by message, of the condition of the State; and he shall recommend to the Legislature such measures as he may deem expedi-

He shall recommend measures.

ent. He shall account to the Legislature for all public moneys received and paid out by him from any fund subject to his order, with vouchers; and shall accompany his message with a statement of the same. And at the commencement of each regular session, he shall present estimates of the amount of money required to be raised by taxation for all purposes.

Account for public moneys.

Return vouchers

Present estimates of required revenue.

SEC. 10. He shall cause the laws to be faithfully executed; and shall conduct, in person, or in such manner as shall be prescribed by law, all intercourse and business of the State with other States and with the United States.

Cause laws to be executed.

Conduct business with other States and United States.

SEC. 11. In all criminal cases, except treason and impeachment, he shall have power, after conviction, to grant reprieves, commutations of punishment and pardons; and under such rules as the Legislature may prescribe, he shall have power to remit fines and forfeitures. With the advice and consent of the Senate, he may grant pardons in cases of treason, and to this end he may respite a sentence therefor, until the close of the succeeding session of the Legislature; *provided*, that in all cases of remissions of fines and forfeitures, or grants of reprieve, commutation of punishment, or pardon, he shall file in the office of the secretary of state his reasons therefor.

May grant reprieves and pardons.

Remit fines, etc.

Proviso.

SEC. 12. All vacancies in State or district offices, except members of the Legislature, shall be filled, unless otherwise provided by law, by appointment of the governor, which appointment, if made during its session, shall be with the advice and consent of two-thirds of the Senate present. If made during the recess of the Senate, the said appointee, or some other person to fill such vacancy, shall be nominated to the Senate during the first ten days of its session. If rejected, said office shall immediately become vacant, and the governor shall, without delay, make further nominations, until a confirmation takes place. But should there be no confirmation during the session of the Senate, the governor shall not thereafter appoint any person to fill such vacancy

Appointments to vacancies and regulations relating thereto.



who has been rejected by the Senate; but may appoint some other person to fill the vacancy until the next session of the Senate or until the regular election to said office, should it sooner occur. Appointments to vacancies in offices elective by the people shall only continue until the first general election thereafter.

Where Govern or shall reside.

SEC. 13. During the session of the Legislature the governor shall reside where its sessions are held, and at all other times at the seat of government, except when by act of the Legislature, he may be required or authorized to reside elsewhere.

Bills passed must be presented for approval.

Veto.

Reconsideration.

Vote by "yeas and nays."

Not returned, becomes a law after ten days.

SEC. 14. Every bill which shall have passed both houses of the Legislature shall be presented to the governor for his approval. If he approve he shall sign it; but if he disapprove it, he shall return it, with his objections, to the house in which it originated, which house shall enter the objections at large upon its journal, and proceed to reconsider it. If after such reconsideration, two-thirds of the members present agree to pass the bill, it shall be sent, with the objections, to the other house, by which likewise it shall be reconsidered; and, if approved by two-thirds of the members of that house, it shall become a law; but in such cases the votes of both houses shall be determined by yeas and nays, and the names of the members voting for and against the bill shall be entered on the journal of each house respectively. If any bill shall not be returned by the governor with his objections within ten days (Sundays excepted) after it shall have been presented to him, the same shall be a law, in like manner as if he had signed it, unless the Legislature, by its adjournment, prevent its return; in which case it shall be a law, unless he shall file the same, with his objections, in the office of the secretary of state, and give notice thereof by public proclamation within twenty days after such adjournment. If any bill presented to the governor contains several items of appropriation, he may object to one or more of such items, and approve the other portion of the bill. In such

case he shall append to the bill, at the time of signing it, a statement of the items to which he objects, and no item so objected to shall take effect. If the Legislature be in session he shall transmit to the house in which the bill originated a copy of such statement, and the items objected to shall be separately considered. If, on reconsideration, one or more of such items be approved by two-thirds of the members present of each house, the same shall be part of the law, notwithstanding the objections of the governor. If any such bill, containing several items of appropriation, not having been presented to the governor ten days (Sundays excepted) prior to adjournment, be in the hands of the governor at the time of adjournment, he shall have twenty days from such adjournment within which to file objections to any items thereof and make proclamation of the same, and such item or items shall not take effect.

SEC. 15. Every order, resolution or vote to which the concurrence of both houses of the Legislature may be necessary, except on questions of adjournment, shall be presented to the governor, and, before it shall take effect, shall be approved by him; or, being disapproved, shall be repassed by both houses; and all the rules, provisions and limitations shall apply thereto as prescribed in the last preceding section in the case of a bill.

What to be presented for approval.

SEC. 16. There shall also be a lieutenant-governor, who shall be chosen at every election for governor by the same electors, in the same manner, continue in office the same time, and possess the same qualifications. The electors shall distinguish for whom they vote as governor and for whom as lieutenant-governor. The lieutenant-governor shall by virtue of his office be president of the Senate, and shall have, when in committee of the whole, a right to debate and vote on all questions; and when the Senate is equally divided to give the casting vote. In case of the death, resignation, removal from office, inability or refusal of the Governor to serve, or of his im-

Lieutenant-Governor.  
How chosen.  
Term of office.  
President of Senate.  
When may debate and vote.  
To give casting vote.



When to act as  
governor.

peachment or absence from the State, the lieutenant-governor shall exercise the powers and authority appertaining to the office of governor until another be chosen at the periodical election, and be duly qualified; or until the governor impeached, absent or disabled, shall be acquitted, return, or his disability be removed.

Vacancy in office  
of lieutenant-  
governor.

SEC. 17. If, during the vacancy in the office of governor, the lieutenant-governor should die, resign, refuse to serve, or be removed from office, or be unable to serve, or if he shall be impeached or absent from the State, the president of the Senate, for the time being, shall, in like manner, administer the government until he shall be superseded by a governor or lieutenant-governor. The lieutenant-governor shall, while he acts as president of the Senate, receive for his services the same compensation and mileage which shall be allowed to the members of the Senate, and no more; and during the time he administers the government, as governor, he shall receive in like manner the same compensation which the governor would have received had he been employed in the duties of his office, and no more. The president for the time being, of the Senate, shall, during the time he administers the government, receive in like manner the same compensation, which the governor would have received had he been employed in the duties of his office.

Compensation.

Lieutenant-gov-  
ernor or presi-  
dent of the sen-  
ate succeeding  
governor to be  
under same re-  
strictions.

SEC. 18. The lieutenant-governor or president of the Senate succeeding to the office of governor, shall, during the entire term to which he may succeed, be under all the restrictions and inhibitions imposed in this Constitution on the governor.

Secretary of  
State to keep  
seal.

SEC. 19. There shall be a Seal of the State which shall be kept by the secretary of state, and used by him officially under the direction of the governor. The seal of the State shall be a star of five points, encircled by olive and live oak branches, and the words, "The State of Texas."

What the seal.

Commissions to  
be signed and  
sealed.

SEC. 20. All commissions shall be in the name and by the authority of the State of Texas,

sealed with the State seal, signed by the governor and attested by the secretary of state.

SEC. 21. There shall be a secretary of state, who shall be appointed by the governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, and who shall continue in office during the term of service of the governor. He shall authenticate the publication of the laws, and keep a fair register of all official acts and proceedings of the governor, and shall, when required, lay the same and all papers, minutes and vouchers relative thereto, before the Legislature, or either house thereof, and shall perform such other duties as may be required of him by law. He shall receive for his services an annual salary of two thousand dollars, and no more.

Secretary of State.  
Governor to appoint.

Term of office.

Duties.

Compensation.

SEC. 22. The attorney general shall hold his office for two years and until his successor is duly qualified. He shall represent the State in all suits and pleas in the Supreme Court of the State in which the State may be a party, and shall especially inquire into the charter rights of all private corporations, and from time to time, in the name of the State, take such action in the courts as may be proper and necessary to prevent any private corporation from exercising any power or demanding or collecting any species of taxes, tolls, freight or wharfage, not authorized by law. He shall, whenever sufficient cause exists, seek a judicial forfeiture of such charters, unless otherwise expressly directed by law, and give legal advice in writing to the governor and other executive officers, when requested by them, and perform such other duties as may be required by law. He shall reside at the seat of government during his continuance in office. He shall receive for his services an annual salary of two thousand dollars, and no more, besides such fees as may be prescribed by law; *provided*, that the fees which he may receive shall not amount to more than two thousand dollars annually.

Attorney general.

Term of office.

His duties.

Shall reside at seat of government.

Salary and fees under \$2,000.

SEC. 23. The comptroller of public accounts, the treasurer and the commissioner of the general

Comptroller.

Treasurer.



<p>Commissioner of land office.</p> <p>Terms of office.</p> <p>Salaries.</p> <p>Residence.</p> <p>Duties</p> <p>Entitled to no perquisites.</p>	<p>land office shall each hold office for the term of two years, and until his successor is qualified : receive an annual salary of two thousand and five hundred dollars, and no more ; reside at the capital of the State during his continuance in office ; and perform such duties as are or may be required of him by law. They and the secretary of State shall not receive to their own use any fees, costs or perquisites of office. All fees that may be payable by law for any service performed by any officer specified in this section, or in his office, shall be paid, when received, into the State treasury.</p>
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<p>All officers to keep accounts and report semi-annually under oath.</p> <p>Governor may require information from officers.</p> <p>Governor may inspect books, accounts, etc.</p> <p>Penalty for false reports. Perjury and removal from office.</p>	<p>SEC. 24. An account shall be kept by the officers of the executive department, and by all officers and managers of State institutions, of all moneys and choses in action received and disbursed or otherwise disposed of by them, severally, from all sources, and for every service performed ; and a semi-annual report thereof shall be made to the governor under oath. The governor may, at any time, require information in writing from any and all of said officers or managers, upon any subject relating to the duties, condition, management and expenses of their respective offices and institutions, which information shall be required by the governor under oath, and the governor may also inspect their books, accounts, vouchers and public funds ; and any officer or manager who, at any time, shall willfully make a false report or give false information, shall be guilty of perjury, and so adjudged and punished accordingly, and removed from office.</p>
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<p>Legislature to facilitate investigations in certain cases.</p>	<p>SEC. 25. The Legislature shall pass efficient laws facilitating the investigation of breaches of trust and duty by all custodians of public funds, and providing for their suspension from office on reasonable cause shown, and for the appointment of temporary incumbents of their offices during such suspension.</p>
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<p>Notaries public to be appointed.</p>	<p>SEC. 26. The governor, by and with the advice and consent of two-thirds of the Senate, shall</p>
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appoint a convenient number of notaries public for each county, who shall perform such duties as now are or may be prescribed by law.

## ARTICLE V.

### JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

SECTION 1. The judicial power of this State shall be vested in one Supreme Court, in a Court of Appeals, in District Courts, in County Courts, in Commissioners' Courts, in Courts of Justices of the Peace, and in such other courts as may be established by law. The Legislature may establish Criminal District Courts with such jurisdiction as it may prescribe, but no such court shall be established unless the district includes a city containing at least thirty thousand inhabitants as ascertained by the census of the United States or other official census; *provided*, such town or city shall support said Criminal District Courts when established. The Criminal District Court of Galveston and Harris counties shall continue with the district, jurisdiction and organization now existing by law, until otherwise provided by law.

Judicial department.  
The several courts.

Criminal Courts in cities of 30,000 provided the city support it.

Criminal Court of Galveston and Harris may continue.

SEC. 2. The Supreme Court shall consist of a chief justice and two associate justices, any two of whom shall constitute a quorum, and the concurrence of two judges shall be necessary to the decision of a case. No person shall be eligible to the office of chief justice or associate justice of the Supreme Court unless he be at the time of his election a citizen of the United States and of this State, and unless he shall have attained the age of thirty years, and shall have been a practicing lawyer or a judge of a court in this State, or such lawyer and judge together, at least seven years. Said chief justice and associate justices shall be elected by the qualified voters of the State at a general election, shall hold their offices for six years, and shall each receive an annual salary of not more than three thousand five hundred and fifty dollars. In case of a vacancy in the office of chief justice or associate justice of

Supreme Court, chief justice and two associates.

Quorum.

Qualifications.

To be elected for six years.  
Salary.



Governor to fill vacancy. the Supreme Court, the governor shall fill the vacancy until the next general election for State officers, and at such general election the vacancy for the unexpired term shall be filled by election by the qualified voters of the State.

Jurisdiction.

Appellate only from District Courts.

SEC. 3. The Supreme Court shall have appellate jurisdiction only, which shall be co-extensive with the limits of the State; but shall only extend to civil cases of which the District Courts have original or appellate jurisdiction. Appeals may be allowed from interlocutory judgments of the District Courts, in such cases and under such regulations as may be provided by law. The Supreme Court and the judges thereof shall have power to issue, under such regulations as may be prescribed by law, the writ of *mandamus* and all other writs necessary to enforce the jurisdiction of said court. The Supreme Court shall have power upon affidavit or otherwise, as by the court may be thought proper, to ascertain such matters of fact as may be necessary to the proper exercise of its jurisdiction. The Supreme Court shall sit for the transaction of business from the first Monday in October until the last Saturday of June of every year, at the seat of government, and at not more than two other places in the State.

Terms of Court.

Clerks.

Term of office.

Court may remove clerks.

SEC. 4. The Supreme Court shall appoint a clerk for each place at which it may sit, and each of said clerks shall give bond in such manner as is now or may hereafter be required by law; shall hold his office for four years, and shall be subject to removal by said court for good cause entered of record on the minutes of said court.

Court of Appeals.

Quorum.

To be elected.

Qualifications.

SEC. 5. The Court of Appeals shall consist of three judges, any two of whom may constitute a quorum, and a concurrence of two judges shall be necessary to a decision of said court. They shall be elected by the qualified voters of the State at a general election. They shall be citizens of the United States and of this State; shall have arrived at the age of thirty years at the

time of election; each shall have been a practicing lawyer, or a judge of a court in this State, or such lawyer and judge together, for at least seven years. Said judges shall hold their offices Term of office. for a term of six years, and each of them shall Salary. receive an annual salary of three thousand five hundred and fifty dollars, which shall not be increased or diminished during their term of office.

SEC. 6. The Court of Appeals shall have appel- Jurisdiction. late jurisdiction co-extensive with the limits of the State in all criminal cases, of whatever grade, and in all civil cases, unless hereafter otherwise provided by law, of which the County Courts have original or appellate jurisdiction. In civil cases its opinions shall not be published unless the publication of such opinions be required by law. The Court of Appeals and the judges thereof shall have power to issue the writ of *habeas corpus*; and under such regulations as may be prescribed by law, issue such writs as may be necessary to enforce its own jurisdiction. The Court of Appeals shall have power upon affidavits, or otherwise, as by the court may be thought proper, to ascertain such matters of fact as may be necessary to the exercise of its jurisdiction. The Court of Appeals shall sit for the transaction of business from the first Monday of Terms of court. October until the last Saturday of June of every year, at the capital, and at not more than two other places in the State, at which the Supreme Court shall hold its sessions. The court shall appoint a clerk for each place at which it may sit, and each of said clerks shall give bond in Clerks. such manner as is now or may hereafter be required by law; shall hold his office for four years, and shall be subject to removal by the Court may re-  
move clerks. said court for good cause, entered of record on the minutes of said court.

SEC. 7. The State shall be divided into twenty- Judicial dis-  
tricts. six judicial districts, which may be increased or diminished by the Legislature. For each district there shall be elected, by the qualified voters thereof, at a general election for members of the



A judge for each. Qualifications. Legislature, a judge, who shall be at least twenty-five years of age, shall be a citizen of the United States, shall have been a practicing attorney or a judge of a court in this State for the period of four years, and shall have resided in the district in which he is elected for two years next before his election; shall reside in his district during his term of office; shall hold his office for the term of four years; shall receive an annual salary of twenty-five hundred dollars, which shall not be increased or diminished during his term of service; and shall hold the regular terms of court at one place in each county in the district twice in each year, in such manner as may be prescribed by law. The Legislature shall have power by general act to authorize the holding of special terms, when necessary, and to provide for holding more than two terms of the court in any county, for the dispatch of business; and shall provide for the holding of District Courts when the judge thereof is absent, or is from any cause disabled or disqualified from presiding.

Shall reside in district.

Term of office. Salary.

Two terms a year.

Special terms by general act.

Original jurisdiction.

SEC. 8. The District Court shall have original jurisdiction in criminal cases of the grade of felony; of all suits in behalf of the State to recover penalties, forfeitures and escheats; of all cases of divorce; in cases of misdemeanors involving official misconduct; of all suits to recover damages for slander or defamation of character; of all suits for the trial of title to land; and for the enforcement of liens thereon; of all suits for trial of right to property levied on by virtue of any writ of execution, sequestration or attachment, when the property levied on shall be equal to or exceed in value five hundred dollars; and of all suits, complaints, or pleas whatever, without regard to any distinction between law and equity, when the matter in controversy shall be valued at, or amount to five hundred dollars exclusive of interest; and the said courts and the judges thereof shall have power to issue writs of *habeas corpus* in felony cases, *mandamus*, injunction, *certiorari*, and all writs necessary to enforce their jurisdic-

tion. The District Courts shall have appellate jurisdiction and general control in probate matters over the County Court established in each county for appointing guardians, granting letters testamentary and of administration, for settling the accounts of executors, administrators and guardians, and for the transaction of business appertaining to estates ; and original jurisdiction and general control over executors, administrators, guardians and minors, under such regulations as may be prescribed by the Legislature. All cases now pending in the Supreme Court, of which the Court of Appeals has appellate jurisdiction under the provisions of this Article, shall, as soon as practicable after the establishment of said Court of Appeals, be certified, and the records transmitted to the Court of Appeals, and shall be decided by such Court of Appeals as if the same had been originally appealed to such court.

Appellate and general control.

Original and general control.

Transfers to proper courts to be made.

SEC. 9. There shall be a clerk for the District Court of each county, who shall be elected by the qualified voters for the State and county officers, and who shall hold his office for two years, subject to removal by information, or by indictment of a grand jury, and conviction by a petit jury. In case of vacancy the judge of the District Court shall have the power to appoint a clerk, who shall hold until the office can be filled by election.

Clerk of District Court. Elected for two years.

May be removed.

Judge may fill vacancy.

SEC. 10. In the trial of all causes in the District Courts, the plaintiff or defendant shall, upon application made in open court, have the right of trial by jury ; but no jury shall be empaneled in any civil case unless demanded by a party to the case, and a jury fee be paid by the party demanding a jury, for such sum, and with such exceptions as may be prescribed by the Legislature.

Jury trial upon application.

Jury to be demanded and fee paid.

SEC. 11. No judge shall sit in any case wherein he may be interested, or where either of the parties may be connected with him by affinity or consanguinity, within such degree as may be

Judges interested disqualified.



prescribed by law, or where he shall have been counsel in the case. When the Supreme Court, or the Appellate Court, or any two of the members of either, shall be thus disqualified to hear and determine any case or cases in said court, the same shall be certified to the governor of the State, who shall immediately commission the requisite number of persons learned in the law, for the trial and determination of said cause or causes. When a judge of the District Court is disqualified by any of the causes above stated, the parties may, by consent, appoint a proper person to try said case; or, upon their failing to do so, a competent person may be appointed to try the same in the county where it is pending, in such manner as may be prescribed by law. And the district judges may exchange districts, or hold courts for each other, when they may deem it expedient, and shall do so when directed by law. The disqualification of judges of inferior tribunals shall be remedied, and vacancies in their offices shall be filled, as prescribed by law.

Provisions for such cases.

Special judges by consent.

Judges may exchange districts.

Disqualifications and vacancies in inferior courts.

Judges, conservators of the peace.

Style of writs.

Prosecutions by the State.

SEC. 12. All judges of the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals and District Courts shall, by virtue of their offices, be conservators of the peace throughout the State. The style of all writs and process shall be "The State of Texas." All prosecutions shall be carried on in the name and by the authority of "The State of Texas," and conclude "against the peace and dignity of the State."

Juries, grand and petit. Twelve men. Quorum.

Nine jurors may return a verdict.

SEC. 13. Grand and petit juries in the District Courts shall be composed of twelve men; but nine members of a grand jury shall be a quorum to transact business and present bills. In trials of civil cases, and in trials of criminal cases below the grade of felony in the District Courts, nine members of the jury, concurring, may render a verdict, but when the verdict shall be rendered by less than the whole number, it shall be signed by every member of the jury concurring in it. When, pending the trial of any case, one or more jurors not exceeding three, may die, or be disabled from sitting, the remainder of the jury

shall have the power to render the verdict; *provided*, that the Legislature may change or modify the rule authorizing less than the whole number of the jury to render a verdict.

Legislature may require unanimity.

SEC. 14. The Judicial Districts in this State and the time of holding the courts therein are fixed by ordinance forming part of this Constitution, until otherwise provided by law.

Judicial districts fixed by ordinance, but may be changed.

SEC. 15. There shall be established in each county in this State a County Court, which shall be a court of record; and there shall be elected in each county, by the qualified voters, a county judge, who shall be well informed in the law of the State; shall be a conservator of the peace, and shall hold his office for two years, and until his successor shall be elected and qualified. He shall receive as a compensation for his services such fees and perquisites as may be prescribed by law.

County Court.

County judge to be elected.

Term of office.

Fees and perquisites.

SEC. 16. The County Court shall have original jurisdiction in all misdemeanors, of which exclusive original jurisdiction is not given to the Justice's Court, as the same are now or may be hereafter prescribed by law, and when the fine to be imposed shall exceed two hundred dollars; and they shall have exclusive original jurisdiction in all civil cases when the matter in controversy shall exceed in value two hundred dollars, and not exceed five hundred dollars, exclusive of interest; and concurrent jurisdiction with the District Courts, when the matter in controversy shall exceed five hundred and not exceed one thousand dollars, exclusive of interest, but shall not have jurisdiction of suits for the recovery of land. They shall have appellate jurisdiction in cases, civil and criminal, of which Justice's Courts have original jurisdiction, but of such civil cases only when the judgment of the court appealed from, shall exceed twenty dollars, exclusive of costs, under such regulations as may be prescribed by law. In all appeals from Justice's Courts, there shall be a trial *de novo* in the County Court, and when the judgment ren-

Original jurisdiction prescribed.

Appellate jurisdiction.



Trial final, when.	dered or fine imposed by the County Court shall not exceed one hundred dollars such trial shall be final; but if the judgment rendered or fine imposed shall exceed one hundred dollars, as well
When appeal allowed.	as in all cases, civil and criminal, of which the County Court has exclusive or concurrent original jurisdiction, an appeal shall lie to the Court of Appeals, under such regulations as may be prescribed by law. The County Courts shall
Have the general jurisdiction of Probate Courts.	have the general jurisdiction of a Probate Court. They shall probate wills, appoint guardians of minors, idiots, lunatics, persons <i>non compos mentis</i> , and common drunkards, grant letters testamentary and of administration, settle accounts of executors, administrators and guardians, transact all business appertaining to the estates of deceased persons, minors, idiots, lunatics, persons <i>non compos mentis</i> , and common drunkards, including the settlement, partition and distribution of estates of deceased persons, and to apprentice minors as provided by law.
Mandamus. Injunctions.	And the County Courts, or judges thereof, shall have power to issue writs of mandamus, injunction, and all other writs necessary to the enforcement of the jurisdiction of said courts; and to
Habeas corpus.	issue writs of <i>habeas corpus</i> in cases where the offense charged is within the jurisdiction of the County Court, or any other court or tribunal inferior to said court. The County Court shall
No criminal jurisdiction where there is a Criminal Court.	not have criminal jurisdiction in any county where there is a Criminal District Court, unless expressly conferred by law; and in such counties appeals from Justice's Courts and other inferior courts and tribunals, in criminal cases shall be to the Criminal District Courts under such regulations as may be prescribed by law, and in all such cases an appeal shall lie from such District
Appeals from Criminal Courts to Court of Appeals.	Courts to the Court of Appeals. Any case pending in the County Court, which the county judge may be disqualified to try, shall be transferred to the District Court of the same county for trial; and where there exists any cause disquali-
When county judge disqualified District Court has original jurisdiction.	fying the county judge for the trial of a cause of which the County Court has jurisdiction, the District Court of such county shall have original jurisdiction of such cause.

SEC. 17. The County Court shall hold a term for civil business at least once in every two months, and shall dispose of probate business, either in term time or vacation as may be provided by law; and said court shall hold a term for criminal business once in every month as may be provided by law. Prosecutions may be commenced in said court by information filed by the county attorney, or by affidavit, as may be provided by law. Grand juries empaneled in the District Courts shall inquire into misdemeanors, and all indictments therefor returned into the District Courts shall forthwith be certified to the County Courts or other inferior courts, having jurisdiction to try them for trial; and if such indictment be quashed in the County, or other inferior court, the person charged, shall not be discharged if there is probable cause of guilt, but may be held by such court or magistrate to answer an information or affidavit. A jury in the County Court shall consist of six men; but no jury shall be empaneled to try a civil case, unless demanded by one of the parties, who shall pay such jury fee therefor, in advance, as may be prescribed by law, unless he makes affidavit that he is unable to pay the same.

Terms for criminal business every month; for civil every two months.

Prosecutions, how begun.

Proceedings of Grand Jury.

Indictment quashed. Accused not to be discharged.

Jury of six.

In civil case jury demanded and fee paid.

SEC. 18. Each organized county in the State now or hereafter existing, shall be divided from time to time, for the convenience of the people, into precincts, not less than four and not more than eight. The present County Courts shall make the first division. Subsequent divisions shall be made by the Commissioners' Court, provided for by this Constitution. In each such precinct there shall be elected at each biennial election, one justice of the peace and one constable, each of whom shall hold his office for two years and until his successor shall be elected and qualified; *provided*, that in any precinct in which there may be a city of eight thousand or more inhabitants, there shall be elected two justices of the peace. Each county shall in like manner be divided into four commissioners' precincts, in each of which there shall be elected by the qualified voters thereof one county commis-

Justice precincts not less than four nor more than eight in each county.

Commissioners' Court to divide county.

One justice for each. Term, two years.

Two justices in cities of 8,000.

Four commissioners' precincts, each to elect a commissioner.



Term, two years. sioner, who shall hold his office for two years and until his successor shall be elected and qualified. The county commissioners so chosen, with the county judge, as presiding officer, shall compose the County Commissioners' Court, which shall exercise such powers and jurisdiction over all county business, as is conferred by this Constitution and the laws of this State, or as may be hereafter prescribed.

Commissioners' Court.

Criminal jurisdiction of justices.

Appeals to County Courts.

Justices *ex-officio* notaries public.

SEC. 19. Justices of the peace shall have jurisdiction in criminal matters of all cases where the penalty or fine to be imposed by law may not be more than for two hundred dollars, and in civil matters of all cases where the amount in controversy is two hundred dollars or less, exclusive of interest, of which exclusive original jurisdiction is not given to the District or County Courts; and such other jurisdiction, criminal and civil, as may be provided by law, under such regulations as may be prescribed by law; and appeals to the County Courts shall be allowed in all cases decided in Justices' Courts where the judgment is for more than twenty dollars exclusive of costs, and in all criminal cases; under such regulations as may be prescribed by law. And the justices of the peace shall be *ex-officio* notaries public; and they shall hold their courts at such times and places as may be provided by law.

County clerk to be elected.

Term, two years.

Duties. Perquisites and fees.

Vacancy.

In counties of 8,000, duties of county and district clerk may be performed by same.

SEC. 20. There shall be elected for each county, by the qualified voters, a county clerk, who shall hold his office for two years, who shall be clerk of the County and Commissioners' Courts and recorder of the county, whose duties, perquisites and fees of office shall be prescribed by the Legislature, and a vacancy in whose office shall be filled by the Commissioners' Court, until the next general election for county and State officers; *provided*, that in counties having a population of less than eight thousand persons there may be an election of a single clerk, who shall perform the duties of district and county clerks.

County attorney.

SEC. 21. A county attorney, for counties in which there is not a resident criminal district

attorney, shall be elected by the qualified voters of each county, who shall be commissioned by the governor, and hold his office for the term of two years. In case of vacancy, the Commissioners' Court of the county shall have power to appoint a county attorney until the next general election. The county attorneys shall represent the State in all cases in the district and inferior courts in their respective counties; but if any county shall be included in a district in which there shall be a district attorney, the respective duties of district attorneys and county attorneys shall in such counties be regulated by the Legislature. The Legislature may provide for the election of district attorneys in such districts as may be deemed necessary, and make provision for the compensation of district attorneys, and county attorneys; *provided*, district attorneys shall receive an annual salary of five hundred dollars, to be paid by the State, and such fees, commissions and perquisites as may be provided by law. County attorneys shall receive as compensation only such fees, commissions and perquisites as may be prescribed by law.

Vacancy.

Duties.

District attorneys.

Salary \$500.

Compensation of county attorneys, fees and perquisites.

SEC. 22. The Legislature shall have power, by local or general law, to increase, diminish or change the civil and criminal jurisdiction of County Courts; and in cases of any such change of jurisdiction the Legislature shall also conform the jurisdiction of the other courts to such change.

Jurisdiction of courts may be changed.

SEC. 23. There shall be elected by the qualified voters of each county a sheriff, who shall hold his office for the term of two years, whose duties and perquisites, and fees of office, shall be prescribed by the Legislature, and vacancies in whose office shall be filled by the Commissioners' Court until the next general election for county or State officers.

Sheriff.

Term, two years.

Vacancy.

SEC. 24. County judges, county attorneys, clerks of the District and County Courts, justices of the peace, constables, and other county officers, may be removed by the judges of the

District Courts may remove county judges, county attorneys, clerks, justices, constables



and other county officers. District Courts for incompetency, official misconduct, habitual drunkenness, or other causes defined by law, upon the cause therefor being set forth in writing, and the finding of its truth by a jury.

Supreme Court to regulate proceedings in all courts. SEC. 25. The Supreme Court shall have power to make rules and regulations for the government of said court, and the other courts of the State, to regulate proceedings and expedite the dispatch of business therein.

No appeal in criminal cases for State. SEC. 26. The State shall have no right of appeal in criminal cases.

Transfer of cases to their respective jurisdictions. SEC. 27. The Legislature shall, at its first session, provide for the transfer of all business, civil and criminal, pending in District Courts, over which jurisdiction is given by this Constitution to the County Courts, or other inferior courts, to such County or inferior courts, and for the trial or disposition of all such causes by such County or other inferior courts.

Vacancies to be filled by governor. SEC. 28. Vacancies in the office of judges in the Supreme Court, of the Court of Appeals, and District Court, shall be filled by the governor until the next succeeding general election; and vacancies in the office of county judge, and justices of the peace, shall be filled by the Commissioners' Court, until the next general election for such offices.

## ARTICLE VI.

### SUFFRAGE.

Who shall not vote. SECTION 1. The following classes of persons shall not be allowed to vote in this State, to-wit:  
 First—Persons under twenty-one years of age.  
 Second—Idiots and lunatics.  
 Third—All paupers supported by any county.  
 Fourth—All persons convicted of any felony, subject to such exceptions as the Legislature may make.  
 Fifth—All soldiers, marines and seamen, em-

ployed in the service of the army or navy of the United States.

SEC. 2. Every male person subject to none of the foregoing disqualifications, who shall have attained the age of twenty-one years, and who shall be a citizen of the United States, and who shall have resided in this State one year next preceding an election, and the last six months within the district or county in which he offers to vote, shall be deemed a qualified elector; and every male person of foreign birth, subject to none of the foregoing disqualifications, who, at any time before an election, shall have declared his intention to become a citizen of the United States in accordance with the federal naturalization laws, and shall have resided in this State one year next preceding such election, and the last six months in the county in which he offers to vote, shall also be deemed a qualified elector; and all electors shall vote in the election precinct of their residence; *provided*, that electors living in any unorganized county, may vote at any election precinct in the county to which such county is attached for judicial purposes.

Voters and electors.

Foreigners.

Declaration of intention.

Residence one year.

County six months.

When shall vote.

SEC. 3. All qualified electors of the State, as herein described, who shall have resided for six months immediately preceding an election within the limits of any city or corporate town, shall have the right to vote for mayor and all other elective officers; but in all elections to determine expenditure of money or assumption of debt, only those shall be qualified to vote who pay taxes on property in said city or incorporated town; *provided*, that no poll tax for the payment of debts thus incurred shall be levied upon the persons debarred from voting in relation thereto.

Electors in towns and cities.

When must be tax-payers.

SEC. 4. In all elections by the people the vote shall be by ballot, and the Legislature shall provide for the numbering of tickets and make such other regulations as may be necessary to detect and punish fraud and preserve the purity of the ballot box; but no law shall ever be

Election by ballots.



No registration, enacted requiring a registration of the voters of this State.

Voters privileged from arrest.

SEC. 5. Voters shall, in all cases, except treason, felony or breach of the peace, be privileged from arrest during their attendance at elections, and in going to and returning therefrom.

## ARTICLE VII.

### EDUCATION—THE PUBLIC FREE SCHOOLS.

Public schools to be established.

SECTION 1. A general diffusion of knowledge being essential to the preservation of the liberties and rights of the people, it shall be the duty of the Legislature of the State to establish and make suitable provision for the support and maintenance of an efficient system of public free schools.

School fund, what constitutes.

SEC. 2. All funds, lands and other property heretofore set apart and appropriated for the support of public schools; all the alternate sections of land reserved by the State out of grants heretofore made or that may hereafter be made to railroads, or other corporations, of any nature whatsoever; one-half of the public domain of the State; and all sums of money that may come to the State from the sale of any portion of the same, shall constitute a perpetual school fund.

One-fourth of revenue.

Poll tax.

SEC. 3. There shall be set apart annually not more than one-fourth of the general revenue of the State, and a poll tax of one dollar on all male inhabitants in this State between the ages of twenty-one and sixty years, for the benefit of the public free schools.

Lands to be sold.

SEC. 4. The land herein set apart to the public free school fund shall be sold under such regulations, at such times and on such terms as may be prescribed by law; and the Legislature shall not have power to grant any relief to the purchasers thereof. The comptroller shall invest the proceeds of such sales, and of those heretofore made, as may be directed by the Board of Edu-

No relief for purchasers of. Proceeds to be invested.

education herein provided for, in the bonds of this State, if the same can be obtained, otherwise in United States bonds; and the United States bonds now belonging to said fund shall likewise be invested in State bonds, if the same can be obtained on terms advantageous to the school fund.

SEC. 5. The principal of all bonds and other funds, and the principal arising from the sale of the lands hereinbefore set apart for said school fund, shall be the permanent school fund; and all the interest derivable therefrom and the taxes herein authorized and levied shall be the available school fund, which shall be applied annually to the support of the public free schools. And no law shall ever be enacted appropriating any part of the permanent or available school fund to any other purpose whatever; nor shall the same or any part thereof ever be appropriated to or used for the support of any sectarian school; and the available school fund herein provided shall be distributed to the several counties according to their scholastic population and applied in manner as may be provided by law.

In what.

Principal permanent.

Interest only available.

Inalienable for other purposes.

Sectarian schools not supported.

School fund, how distributed.

SEC. 6. All lands heretofore or hereafter granted to the several counties of this State for education or schools, are of right the property of said counties respectively to which they were granted, and title thereto is vested in said counties, and no adverse possession or limitation shall ever be available against the title of any county. Each county may sell or dispose of its lands in whole or in part, in manner to be provided by the Commissioners' Court of the county. Actual settlers residing on said lands shall be protected in the prior right of purchasing the same to the extent of their settlement, not to exceed one hundred and sixty acres, at the price fixed by said court, which price shall not include the value of existing improvements made thereon by such settlers. Said lands and the proceeds thereof, when sold, shall be held by said counties alone as a trust for the benefit of public schools therein; said proceeds to be in-

County school lands.

No statute of limitations.

May be sold.

Prior rights of actual settlers.



Proceeds to be  
invested in  
bonds.

vested in bonds of the State of Texas, or of the United States, and only the interest thereon to be used and expended annually.

Impartial provi-  
sions for white  
and colored.

SEC. 7. Separate schools shall be provided for the white and colored children, and impartial provision shall be made for both.

Board of educa-  
tion.

SEC. 8. The governor, comptroller and secretary of state shall constitute a Board of Education, who shall distribute said funds to the several counties and perform such other duties concerning public schools as may be prescribed by law.

#### ASYLUMS.

Lands belonging  
to asylums.

SEC. 9. All lands heretofore granted for the benefit of the Lunatic, Blind, Deaf and Dumb, and Orphan Asylums, together with such donations as may have been or may hereafter be made to either of them, respectively, as indicated in the several grants, are hereby set apart to provide a permanent fund for the support, maintenance and improvement of said asylums. And the Legislature may provide for the sale of the lands and investment of the proceeds in manner as provided for the sale and investment of school lands in section 4 of this Article.

May be sold and  
proceeds in-  
vested.

#### UNIVERSITY.

The University  
of Texas.  
Its land and  
funds.

SEC. 10. The Legislature shall, as soon as practicable, establish, organize and provide for the maintenance, support and direction of a university of the first class, to be located by a vote of the people of this State, and styled "The University of Texas," for the promotion of literature, and the arts and sciences, including an agricultural and mechanical department.

SEC. 11. In order to enable the Legislature to perform the duties set forth in the foregoing section, it is hereby declared that all lands and other property heretofore set apart and appropriated for the establishment and maintenance of "The University of Texas," together with all the

proceeds of sales of the same, heretofore made or hereafter to be made, and all grants, donations and appropriations that may hereafter be made by the State of Texas, or from any other source, shall constitute and become a permanent university fund. And the same as realized and received into the treasury of the State (together with such sums, belonging to the fund, as may now be in the treasury), shall be invested in bonds of the State of Texas, if the same can be obtained; if not, then in United States bonds, and the interest accruing thereon shall be subject to appropriation by the Legislature to accomplish the purpose declared in the foregoing section; *provided*, that one-tenth of the alternate sections of the lands granted to railroads, reserved by the State, which were set apart and appropriated to the establishment of "The University of Texas," by an act of the Legislature of February 11, 1858, entitled "An act to establish 'The University of Texas,'" shall not be included in or constitute a part of the permanent university fund.

Funds.

How invested.

SEC. 12. The land herein set apart to the university fund shall be sold under such regulations, at such times, and on such terms, as may be provided by law; and the Legislature shall provide for the prompt collection, at maturity, of all debts due on account of university lands, heretofore sold, or that may hereafter be sold, and shall in neither event have the power to grant relief to the purchasers.

University lands to be sold.

Purchasers not to be relieved.

SEC. 13. The Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas, established by an act of the Legislature, passed April 17, 1871, located in the county of Brazos, is hereby made, and constituted a branch of the University of Texas, for instruction in agriculture, the mechanic arts and the natural sciences connected therewith. And the Legislature shall, at its next session, make an appropriation, not to exceed forty thousand dollars, for the construction and completion of the buildings and improvements, and for providing the furniture necessary to put said college in immediate and successful operation.

Agricultural and Mechanical College.

Appropriation to be made for completion.



Branch University for colored.

No tax and no appropriation of general revenue.

One million acres of land appropriated for University and branches.

To be sold and invested.

SEC. 14. The Legislature shall also when deemed practicable, establish and provide for the maintenance of a College or Branch University for the instruction of the colored youths of the State, to be located by a vote of the people: *provided*, that no tax shall be levied, and no money appropriated out of the general revenue, either for this purpose or for the establishment and erection of the buildings of the University of Texas.

SEC. 15. In addition to the lands heretofore granted to the University of Texas, there is hereby set apart, and appropriated, for the endowment, maintenance and support of said University and its branches, one million acres of the unappropriated public domain of the State, to be designated and surveyed as may be provided by law; and said lands shall be sold under the same regulations, and the proceeds invested in the same manner as is provided for the sale and investment of the permanent University fund; and the Legislature shall not have power to grant any relief to the purchasers of said lands.

## ARTICLE VIII.

### TAXATION AND REVENUE.

Taxation equal and uniform on all property.

Poll tax.

Occupation tax.

Income tax.

Exemption.

Exemption.

SECTION 1. Taxation shall be equal and uniform. All property in this State, whether owned by natural persons or corporations, other than municipal, shall be taxed in proportion to its value, which shall be ascertained as may be provided by law. The Legislature may impose a poll tax. It may also impose occupation taxes, both upon natural persons and upon corporations, other than municipal, doing any business in this State. It may also tax incomes of both natural persons and corporations, other than municipal, except that persons engaged in mechanical and agricultural pursuits shall never be required to pay an occupation tax; *provided*, that two hundred and fifty dollars worth of household and kitchen furniture, belonging to each family in this State, shall be exempt from

taxation, and provided further that the occupation tax levied by any county, city or town, for any year, on persons or corporations pursuing any profession or business, shall not exceed one-half of the tax levied by the State for the same period on such profession or business.

Limitation upon counties cities and towns.

SEC. 2. All occupation taxes shall be equal and uniform upon the same class of subjects within the limits of the authority levying the tax; but the Legislature may, by general laws, exempt from taxation public property used for public purposes; actual places of religious worship; places of burial not held for private or corporate profit; all buildings used exclusively and owned by persons or associations of persons for school purposes, (and the necessary furniture of all schools,) and institutions of purely public charity; and all laws exempting property from taxation other than the property above mentioned, shall be void.

Occupation tax equal and uniform.

Legislature may exempt certain property.

None other.

SEC. 3. Taxes shall be levied and collected by general laws and for public purposes only.

Taxes, collected by general laws.

SEC. 4. The power to tax corporations and corporate property shall not be surrendered or suspended by act of the Legislature, by any contract or grant to which the State shall be a party.

Inhibition upon Legislative acts. Corporation taxes.

SEC. 5. All property of railroad companies, of whatever description, lying or being within the limits of any city or incorporated town within this State, shall bear its proportionate share of municipal taxation, and if any such property shall not have been heretofore rendered, the authorities of the city or town within which it lies, shall have power to require its rendition, and collect the usual municipal tax thereon, as on other property lying within said municipality.

Railroad taxes due cities and towns.

Back taxes on, may be collected.

SEC. 6. No money shall be drawn from the treasury but in pursuance of specific appropriations made by law; nor shall any appropriation of money be made for a longer term than two

Appropriations. How to be made.

For what period.



years, except by the first Legislature to assemble under this Constitution, which may make the necessary appropriations to carry on the government until the assemblage of the Sixteenth Legislature.

Special funds not to be borrowed or diverted.

Penalty.

SEC. 7. The Legislature shall not have power to borrow, or in any manner divert from its purpose any special fund that may, or ought to, come into the treasury; and shall make it penal for any person or persons to borrow, withhold, or in any manner to divert from its purpose, any special fund, or any part thereof.

Railroad companies.  
County taxes.

Rolling stock assessed in gross and apportioned to counties.

SEC. 8. All property of railroad companies shall be assessed, and the taxes collected in the several counties in which said property is situated, including so much of the roadbed and fixtures as shall be in each county. The rolling stock may be assessed in gross in the county where the principal office of the company is located, and the county tax paid upon it shall be apportioned by the comptroller, in proportion to the distance such road may run through any such county, among the several counties through which the road passes, as a part of their tax assets.

State tax limited to fifty cents.  
County and municipal half of State tax.

Exception.

SEC. 9. The State tax, on property, exclusive of the tax necessary to pay the public debt, shall never exceed fifty cents on the one hundred dollars valuation, and no county, city or town shall levy more than one-half of said State tax, except for the payment of debts already incurred, and for the erection of public buildings, not to exceed fifty cents on the one hundred dollars in any one year, and except as in this Constitution is otherwise provided.

Taxes not to be released, except in public calamity.

SEC. 10. The Legislature shall have no power to release the inhabitants of, or property in, any county, city or town, from the payment of taxes levied for State or county purposes, unless in case of great public calamity in any such county, city or town, when such release may be made by

a vote of two-thirds of each house of the Legislature.

SEC. 11. All property, whether owned by persons or corporations, shall be assessed for taxation, and the taxes paid in the county where situated, but the Legislature may by a two-thirds vote, authorize the payment of taxes of non-residents of counties to be made at the office of the comptroller of public accounts. And all lands and other property not rendered for taxation by the owner thereof shall be assessed at its fair value by the proper officer.

Taxes to be paid in county where property is.

Legislature may change this provision as to non-residents of counties.

SEC. 12. All property subject to taxation in, and owned by residents of unorganized counties, shall be assessed and the taxes thereon paid in the counties to which such unorganized counties shall be attached for judicial purposes; and lands lying in and owned by non-residents of unorganized counties, and lands lying in the territory not laid off into counties, shall be assessed and the taxes thereon collected at the office of the comptroller of the State.

Taxation in unorganized.

Where assessed and paid.

SEC. 13. Provision shall be made by the first Legislature for the speedy sale of a sufficient portion of all lands and other property for the taxes due thereon, and every year thereafter for the sale of all lands and other property upon which the taxes have not been paid, and the deed of conveyance to the purchaser for all lands and other property thus sold shall be held to vest a good and perfect title in the purchaser thereof, subject to be impeached only for actual fraud; *provided*, that the former owner shall, within two years from date of purchaser's deed, have the right to redeem the land upon the payment of double the amount of money paid for the land.

Collection of taxes to be enforced by speedy sale.

Tax deeds.

Two years to redeem.

SEC. 14. There shall be elected by the qualified electors of each county, at the same time and under the same law regulating the election of State and county officers, an assessor of taxes, who shall hold his office for two years and until his successor is elected and qualified.

Assessors of taxes to be elected for two years.



Taxes to be a  
lien.

Property of de-  
linquents may be  
sold.

SEC. 15. The annual assessment made upon landed property shall be a special lien thereon, and all property, both real and personal, belonging to any delinquent taxpayer, shall be liable to seizure and sale for the payment of all the taxes and penalties due by such delinquent; and such property may be sold for the payment of the taxes and penalties due by such delinquent, under such regulations as the Legislature may provide.

Sheriff to be tax  
collector.

In counties hav-  
ing 10 000 popu-  
lation collector  
shall be elected.

SEC. 16. The sheriff of each county in addition to his other duties, shall be the collector of taxes therefor. But in counties having ten thousand inhabitants, to be determined by the last preceding census of the United States, a collector of taxes shall be elected to hold office for two years and until his successor shall be elected and qualified.

Power of Legis-  
lature over sub-  
jects of taxation.

SEC. 17. The specification of the objects and subjects of taxation shall not deprive the Legislature of the power to require other subjects or objects to be taxed in such manner as may be consistent with the principles of taxation fixed in this Constitution.

Taxation to be  
equalized.  
Lands to be class-  
ified.

SEC. 18. The Legislature shall provide for equalizing, as near as may be, the valuation of all property subject to or rendered for taxation, (the County Commissioner's Court to constitute a board of equalization); and may also provide for the classification of all lands with reference to their value in the several counties.

## ARTICLE IX.

### COUNTIES.

Counties may be  
created.

New counties in  
unorganized  
territory.

SECTION 1. The Legislature shall have power to create counties for the convenience of the people, subject to the following provisions:

First. In the territory of the State exterior to all counties now existing, no new counties shall be created with a less area than nine hundred square miles, in a square form, unless prevented

by pre-existing boundary lines. Should the State lines render this impracticable in border counties, the area may be less. The territory referred to may, at any time, in whole or in part, be divided into counties in advance of population, and attached, for judicial and land surveying purposes, to the most convenient organized county or counties.

Second. Within the territory of any county or counties now existing, no new county shall be created with a less area than seven hundred square miles, nor shall any such county now existing be reduced to a less area than seven hundred square miles. No new counties shall be created so as to approach nearer than twelve miles of the county seat of any county from which it may, in whole or in part, be taken. Counties of a less area than nine hundred, but of seven hundred or more square miles, within counties now existing, may be created by a two-thirds vote of each house of the Legislature, taken by yeas and nays, and entered on the journals. Any county now existing may be reduced to an area of not less than seven hundred square miles by a like two-thirds vote. When any part of a county is stricken off and attached to or created into another county, the part stricken off shall be holden for and obliged to pay its proportion of all the liabilities then existing of the county from which it was taken, in such manner as may be prescribed by law.

Third. No part of any existing county shall be detached from it and attached to another existing county until the proposition for such change shall have been submitted, in such manner as may be provided by law, to a vote of the electors of both counties, and shall have received a majority of those voting on the question in each.

#### COUNTY SEATS.

SEC. 2. The Legislature shall pass laws regulating the manner of removing county seats, but no county seat situated within five miles of the geographical centre of the county shall be removed, except by a vote of two-thirds of all the

New counties  
within existing  
counties.

Changing coun-  
to lines.

To be submitted  
to vote.

County seats.  
How created.  
May be changed.



electors voting on the subject. A majority of such electors, however, voting at such election, may remove a county seat from a point more than five miles from the geographical centre of the county to a point within five miles of such centre, in either case the centre to be determined by a certificate from the commissioner of the general land office.

## ARTICLE X.

### RAILROADS.

Railroads may connect at State line with other roads.

To intersect connect and cross other roads, and form continuous lines.

Made public highways and common carriers. Duty of Legislature as to railroads.

To fix maximum rates.

To keep public office in this State.

SECTION 1. Any railroad corporation or association, organized under the law for the purpose, shall have the right to construct and operate a railroad between any points within this State, and to connect at the State line with railroads of other States. Every railroad company shall have the right, with its road, to intersect, connect with or cross any other railroad; and shall receive and transport each the others passengers, tonnage and cars, loaded or empty, without delay or discrimination, under such regulations as shall be prescribed by law.

SEC. 2. Railroads heretofore constructed, or that may hereafter be constructed in this State, are hereby declared public highways, and railroad companies common carriers. The Legislature shall pass laws to correct abuses and prevent unjust discrimination and extortion in the rates of freight and passenger tariffs on the different railroads in this State; and shall from time to time pass laws establishing reasonable maximum rates of charges for the transportation of passengers and freight on said railroads, and enforce all such laws by adequate penalties.

SEC. 3. Every railroad or other corporation, organized or doing business in this State under the laws or authority thereof, shall have and maintain a public office or place in this State for the transaction of its business, where transfers of stock shall be made, and where shall be kept, for inspection by the stockholders of such corporations, books, in which shall be recorded the

amount of capital stock subscribed, the names of the owners of the stock, the amounts owned by them respectively, the amount of stock paid, and by whom, the transfer of said stock, with the date of the transfer, the amount of its assets and liabilities, and the names and places of residence of its officers. The directors of every railroad company shall hold one meeting annually in this State, public notice of which shall be given thirty days previously, and the president or superintendent shall report annually, under oath, to the comptroller or governor, their acts and doings, which report shall include such matters relating to railroads as may be prescribed by law. The Legislature shall pass laws enforcing by suitable penalties the provisions of this section.

Directors to hold annual meeting.

To make annual report under penalty for failure.

SEC. 4. The rolling stock and all other movable property belonging to any railroad company or corporation in this State shall be considered personal property, and its real and personal property, or any part thereof, shall be liable to execution and sale in the same manner as the property of individuals; and the Legislature shall pass no laws exempting any such property from execution and sale.

Rolling stock to be personal property.

Liable to execution.

No exemption from execution.

SEC. 5. No railroad or other corporation, or the lessees, purchasers or managers of any railroad corporation, shall consolidate the stock, property or franchises of such corporation, with, or lease or purchase the works or franchises of, or in any way control any railroad corporation owning or having under its control a parallel or competing line; nor shall any officer of such railroad corporation act as an officer of any other railroad corporation owning or having the control of a parallel or competing line.

No consolidation with parallel or competing lines.

SEC. 6. No railroad company organized under the laws of this State shall consolidate by private or judicial sale or otherwise with any railroad company organized under the laws of any other State or of the United States.

No consolidation with foreign roads.

Street railways  
only with local  
consent.

SEC. 7. No law shall be passed by the Legislature granting the right to construct and operate a street railroad within any city, town, or village, or upon any public highway, without first acquiring the consent of the local authorities having control of the street or highway proposed to be occupied by such street railroad.

Future relief  
conditioned  
upon acceptance  
of constitutional  
provisions.

SEC. 8. No railroad corporation in existence at the time of the adoption of this Constitution, shall have the benefit of any future legislation, except on condition of complete acceptance of all the provisions of this Constitution applicable to railroads.

Must be con-  
structed through  
county seats.

SEC. 9. No railroad hereafter constructed in this State shall pass within a distance of three miles of any county seat without passing through the same, and establishing and maintaining a depot therein, unless prevented by natural obstacles, such as streams, hills or mountains; *provided*, such town or its citizens shall grant the right of way through its limits and sufficient ground for ordinary depot purposes.

When.

## ARTICLE XI.

### MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS.

Municipal cor-  
porations.

SECTION 1. The several counties of this State are hereby recognized as legal subdivisions of the State.

Public buildings  
and roads to be  
provided.

SEC. 2. The construction of jails, court-houses and bridges, and the establishment of county poor houses and farms, and the laying out, construction and repairing of county roads shall be provided for by general laws.

Not to become  
stock holders or  
make donations.

SEC. 3. No county, city or other municipal corporation shall hereafter become a subscriber to the capital of any private corporation or association, or make any appropriation or donation to the same, or in anywise loan its credit; but this shall not be construed to in any way



affect any obligation heretofore undertaken pursuant to law.

SEC. 4. Cities and towns having a population of ten thousand inhabitants or less, may be chartered alone by general law. They may levy, assess and collect an annual tax to defray the current expenses of their local government, but such tax shall never exceed, for any one year, one-fourth of one per cent., and shall be collectable only in current money. And all license and occupation tax levied, and all fines, forfeitures, penalties and other dues accruing to cities and towns shall be collectable only in current money.

Cities of 10,000 population may be chartered.

Powers.

Dues to be collected in current money.

SEC. 5. Cities having more than ten thousand inhabitants may have their charters granted or amended by special act of the Legislature, and may levy, assess and collect such taxes as may be authorized by law, but no tax for any purpose shall ever be lawful, for any one year, which shall exceed two and one-half per cent. of the taxable property of such city; and no debt shall ever be created by any city, unless at the same time provision be made to assess and collect annually a sufficient sum to pay the interest thereon and create a sinking fund of at least two per cent. thereon.

Cities of 10,000 population may have special legislation.

Limitation upon taxation and upon creation of debts.

SEC. 6. Counties, cities and towns are authorized, in such mode as may now or may hereafter be provided by law, to levy, assess and collect the taxes necessary to pay the interest and provide a sinking fund to satisfy any indebtedness heretofore legally made and undertaken; but all such taxes shall be assessed and collected separately from that levied, assessed and collected for current expenses of municipal government, and shall when levied specify in the act of levying the purpose therefor, and such taxes may be paid in the coupons, bonds or other indebtedness for the payment of which such tax may have been levied.

Municipal taxation.

SEC. 7. All counties and cities bordering on the coast of the Gulf of Mexico, are hereby

Special taxation for sea walls, breakwaters

and sanitary  
purposes.

Restrictions and  
limitation.

Eminent domain  
and condemna-  
tion.

State aid to sea  
walls and break-  
waters author-  
ized.

Public property,  
buildings, etc.

City or town  
may be school  
district.

authorized, upon a vote of two-thirds of the tax-payers therein (to be ascertained as may be provided by law) to levy and collect such tax for construction of sea walls, breakwaters, or sanitary purposes, and may be authorized by law, and may create a debt for such works and issue bonds in evidence thereof. But no debt for any purpose shall ever be incurred in any manner by any city or county, unless provision is made at the time of creating the same, for levying and collecting a sufficient tax to pay the interest thereon and provide at least two per cent. as a sinking fund; and the condemnation of the right of way for the erection of such works shall be fully provided for.

SEC. 8. The counties and cities on the Gulf coast being subject to calamitous overflows, and a very large proportion of the general revenue being derived from those otherwise prosperous localities, the Legislature is especially authorized to aid by donation of such portion of the public domain as may be deemed proper, and in such mode as may be provided by law, the construction of sea walls, or breakwaters, such aid to be proportioned to the extent and value of the works constructed, or to be constructed, in any locality.

SEC. 9. The property of counties, cities and towns owned and held only for public purposes, such as public buildings and the sites therefor, fire engines and the furniture thereof, and all property used, or intended for extinguishing fires, public grounds and all other property devoted exclusively to the use and benefit of the public shall be exempt from forced sale and from taxation; *provided*, nothing herein shall prevent the enforcement of the vendor's lien, the mechanic's or builder's lien, or other liens now existing.

SEC. 10. The Legislature may constitute any city or town a separate and independent school district. And when the citizens of any city or town have a charter, authorizing the city author-

ities to levy and collect a tax for the support and maintenance of a public institution of learning, such tax may hereafter be levied and collected, if, at any election held for that purpose, two-thirds of the tax-payers of such city or town shall vote for such tax.

Special tax may be collected to support.

## ARTICLE XII.

### PRIVATE CORPORATIONS.

SECTION 1. No private corporations shall be created except by general laws.

Private corporations by general laws only.

SEC. 2. General laws shall be enacted providing for the creation of private corporations, and shall therein provide fully for the adequate protection of the public and of the individual stockholders.

SEC. 3. The right to authorize and regulate freights, tolls, wharfage or fares levied and collected or proposed to be levied and collected by individuals, companies or corporations, for the use of highways, landings, wharves, bridges and ferries, devoted to public use, has never been and shall never be relinquished or abandoned by the State, but shall always be under legislative control and depend upon legislative authority.

Special franchises always under legislative control.

SEC. 4. The first Legislature assembled after the adoption of this Constitution shall provide a mode of procedure by the attorney general and district or county attorneys, in the name and behalf of the State, to prevent and punish the demanding and receiving or collection of any and all charges as freight, wharfage, fares, or tolls, for the use of property devoted to the public, unless the same shall have been specially authorized by law.

To be under surveillance of attorney general and district attorneys.

SEC. 5. All laws granting the right to demand and collect freights, fares, tolls or wharfage shall at all times be subject to amendment, modification or repeal by the Legislature.

Freights, fares, tolls, etc subject to control of Legislature.

SEC. 6. No corporation shall issue stock or bonds except for money paid, labor done or

Stock and bonds in, for what issued.



Fictitious stock void. property actually received, and all fictitious increase of stock or indebtedness shall be void.

Vested rights protected.

SEC. 7. Nothing in this article shall be construed to divest or affect rights guaranteed by any existing grant or statute of this State, or of the Republic of Texas.

## ARTICLE XIII.

### SPANISH AND MEXICAN LAND TITLES.

Fines, penalties and escheats accrue to the State.

Legislature to provide for forfeitures and escheats.

Enure to the protection of innocent holders.

Titles issued prior to November 13, 1835, not recorded, archived or in possession, etc.

SECTION 1. All fines, penalties, forfeitures and escheats, which have heretofore accrued to the Republic and State of Texas, under their constitutions and laws, shall accrue to the State under this Constitution; and the Legislature shall provide a method for determining what lands have been forfeited, and for giving effect to escheats; and all such rights of forfeiture and escheats to the State shall *ipso facto*, inure to the protection of the innocent holders of junior titles, as provided in sections 2, 3 and 4 of this Article.

SEC. 2. Any claim of title or right to land in Texas, issued prior to the 13th day of November, 1835, not duly recorded in the county where the land was situated at the time of such record; or not duly archived in the general land office; or not in the actual possession of the grantee thereof, or some person claiming under him, prior to the accruing of junior title thereto from the sovereignty of the soil, under circumstances reasonably calculated to give notice to said junior grantee, has never had, and shall not have, standing or effect against such junior title, or color of title, acquired without such or actual notice of such prior claim of title or right; and no condition annexed to such grants, not archived, or recorded, or occupied as aforesaid, has been, or ever *shall* be released or waived, but actual performance of all such conditions shall be proved by the person or persons claiming under such title or claim of right in order to maintain action thereon, and the holder of such junior title, or color of title, shall have all the rights of the gov-

ernment which have heretofore existed, or now exist, arising from the non-performance of all such conditions.

SEC. 3. Non-payment of taxes on any claim of title to land, dated prior to the 13th day of November, 1835, not recorded or archived, as provided in section 2, by the person or persons so claiming, or those under whom he or they so claim, from that date up to the date of the adoption of this Constitution, shall be held to be a presumption that the right thereto has reverted to the State, and that said claim is a stale demand, which presumption shall only be rebutted by payment of all taxes on said lands, State, county, and city or town, to be assessed on the fair value of such lands by the comptroller, and paid to him, without commutation or deduction for any part of the above period.

Non-payment of taxes thereon.

Raises presumption against claim.

Presumption rebutted by payment of taxes.

SEC. 4. No claim of title or right to land, which issued prior to the 13th day of November, 1835, which has not been duly recorded in the county where the land was situated at the time of such record, or which has not been duly archived in the general land office, shall ever hereafter be deposited in the general land office, or recorded in this State, or delineated on the maps, or used as evidence in any of the courts of this State, and the same are stale claims; but this shall not affect such rights or presumptions as arise from actual possession. By the words, "duly recorded," as used in sections 2 and 4 of this Article, it is meant that such claim of title or right to land shall have been recorded in the proper office, and that mere errors in the certificate of registration, or informality, not affecting the fairness and good faith of the holder thereof, with which the record was made, shall not be held to vitiate such record.

No such titles to be recorded or archived hereafter.

Actual possessors not affected.

"Duly recorded" defined.

SEC. 5. All claims, locations, surveys, grants and titles, of any kind, which are declared null and void by the Constitution of the Republic or State of Texas, are, and the same shall remain forever null and void.

Claims heretofore declared null and void shall remain.

Forgers of land titles.

SEC. 6. The Legislature shall pass stringent laws for the detection and conviction of all forgers of land titles, and may make such appropriations of money for that purpose as may be necessary.

Sections 2, 3, 4 and 5. No repeal of conditions on which grants have been made.

SEC. 7. Sections 2, 3, 4 and 5 of this Article shall not be so construed as to set aside or repeal any law or laws of the Republic or State of Texas, releasing the claimants of headrights of colonists of a league of land, or less, from compliance with the conditions on which their grants were made.

## ARTICLE XIV.

### PUBLIC LANDS AND LAND OFFICE.

General land office.

SECTION 1. There shall be one general land office in the State, which shall be at the seat of government, where all land titles which have emanated or may hereafter emanate from the State shall be registered, except those titles the registration of which may be prohibited by this Constitution. It shall be the duty of the Legislature at the earliest practicable time to make the land office self-sustaining, and from time to time the Legislature may establish such subordinate offices as may be deemed necessary.

Grants to be registered in.

To be self-sustaining

Genuine land certificates revived.

SEC. 2. All unsatisfied genuine land certificates barred by section 4, Article 10, of the Constitution of 1869, by reason of the holders or owners thereof failing to have them surveyed and returned to the land office by the first day of January, 1875, are hereby revived. All unsatisfied genuine land certificates now in existence shall be surveyed and returned to the general land office within five years after the adoption of this Constitution, or be forever barred; and all genuine land certificates hereafter issued by the State shall be surveyed and returned to the general land office within five years after issuance, or be forever barred; *provided*, that all genuine land certificates heretofore or hereafter issued shall be located, surveyed or patented,

Extended for five years.

Certificates hereafter issued to be surveyed within five years.



only upon vacant and unappropriated public domain, and not upon any land titled or equitably owned under color of title from the sovereignty of the State, evidence of the appropriation of which is on the county records or in the general land office; or when the appropriation is evidenced by the occupation of the owner, or of some person holding for him.

To be located only on vacant and unoccupied land.

SEC. 3. The Legislature shall have no power to grant any of the lands of this State to any railway company except upon the following restrictions and conditions:

Restrictions upon grants to railways.

First. That there shall never be granted to any such corporation more than sixteen sections to the mile, and no reservation of any part of the public domain for the purpose of satisfying such grant shall ever be made.

No more than sixteen sections per mile.

No reservations.

Second. That no land certificate shall be issued to such company until they have equipped, constructed and in running order at least ten miles of road, and on the failure of such company to comply with the terms of its charter, or to alienate its land at a period to be fixed by law, in no event to exceed twelve years from the issuance of the patent, all said land shall be forfeited to the State and become a portion of the public domain, and liable to location and survey.

Certificates only to issue after construction of ten miles.

Alienation and forfeitures.

The Legislature shall pass general laws only, to give effect to the provisions of this section.

General laws only.

SEC. 4. No certificate for land shall be sold at the land office except to actual settlers upon the same, and in lots not to exceed one hundred and sixty acres.

Actual settlers only may buy from land office.

SEC. 5. All lands heretofore or hereafter granted to railway companies, where the charter or law of the State required or shall hereafter require their alienation within a certain period, on pain of forfeiture, or is silent on the subject of forfeiture, and which lands have not been or shall not hereafter be alienated, in conformity with the terms of their charters, and the laws under which the grants were made, are hereby declared forfeited to the State and subject to pre-

Lands heretofore granted to.

Alienation and forfeiture.

Attorney General to inquire into alienation and institute proceedings to forfeit upon non-compliance.

emption, location and survey, as other vacant lands. All lands heretofore granted to said railroad companies to which no forfeiture was attached, on their failure to alienate, are not included in the foregoing clause, but in all such last named cases it shall be the duty of the attorney general, in every instance where alienations have been or hereafter may be made, to inquire into the same, and if such alienation has been made in fraud of the rights of the State, and is colorable only, the real and beneficial interest being still in such corporation, to institute legal proceedings in the county where the seat of government is situated to forfeit such lands to the State, and if such alienation be judicially ascertained to be fraudulent and colorable as aforesaid, such lands shall be forfeited to the State and become a part of the vacant public domain, liable to pre-emption, location and survey.

160 acres to heads of families without homestead. Conditions.

SEC. 6. To every head of a family without a homestead there shall be donated one hundred and sixty acres of public land, upon condition that he will select and locate said land, and occupy the same three years, and pay the office fees due thereon. To all single men of eighteen years of age and upwards shall be donated eighty acres of public land, upon the terms and conditions prescribed for heads of families.

80 acres to single men on same conditions.

Mines and minerals released.

SEC. 7. The State of Texas hereby releases to the owner or owners of the soil all mines and minerals that may be on the same, subject to taxation as other property.

Time extended to certain persons to comply with conditions of act of Aug. 15, 1870, and other acts.

SEC. 8. Persons residing between the Nueces river and the Rio Grande, and owning grants for lands which emanated from the government of Spain, or that of Mexico, which grants have been recognized and validated by the State, by acts of the Legislature, approved February 10, 1852, August 15, 1870, and other acts, and who have been prevented from complying with the requirements of said acts by the unsettled condition of the country, shall be allowed until the first day of January, 1880, to complete their surveys.

and the plats thereof, and to return their field notes to the general land office; and all claimants failing to do so shall be forever barred: *provided*, nothing in this section shall be so construed as to validate any titles not already valid, or to interfere with the rights of third persons.

## ARTICLE XV.

### IMPEACHMENT.

SECTION 1. The power of impeachment shall be vested in the House of Representatives.

Impeachment vested in House of Representatives.

SEC. 2 Impeachment of the governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, treasurer, commissioner of the general land office, comptroller, and the judges of the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals and District Court shall be tried by the Senate.

Tried by Senate.

SEC. 3. When the Senate is sitting as a Court of Impeachment, the senators shall be on oath, or affirmation, impartially to try the party impeached, and no person shall be convicted without the concurrence of two-thirds of the senators present.

Court of impeachment.  
Oath of senators.

SEC. 4. Judgment in cases of impeachment shall extend only to removal from office, and disqualification from holding any office of honor, trust, or profit, under this State. A party convicted on impeachment shall also be subject to indictment, trial and punishment, according to law.

To what judgment shall extend.

The convicted subject to trial according to law.

SEC. 5. All officers against whom articles of impeachment may be preferred shall be suspended from the exercise of the duties of their office, during the pendency of such impeachment. The governor may make a provisional appointment to fill the vacancy, occasioned by the suspension of an officer until the decision on the impeachment.

Articles preferred to suspend functions.

Provisional appointments.

SEC. 6. Any judge of the District Courts of the State who is incompetent to discharge the

District judges



may be removed  
by Supreme  
Court.

Supreme Court  
shall hear when.

Regulations.

Trial and re-  
moval of other  
officers.

Two-thirds of  
Legislature may  
address judges  
out in certain  
cases.

Causes to be en-  
tered on jour-  
nals.

Accused to be  
heard.

duties of his office, or who shall be guilty of partiality, or oppression, or other official misconduct, or whose habits and conduct are such as to render him unfit to hold such office, or who shall negligently fail to perform his duties as judge, or who shall fail to execute in a reasonable measure the business in his courts, may be removed by the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court shall have original jurisdiction to hear and determine the causes aforesaid when presented in writing upon the oaths taken before some judge of a court of record of not less than ten lawyers, practicing in the courts held by such judge, and licensed to practice in the Supreme Court; said presentment to be founded, either upon the knowledge of the persons making it or upon the written oaths as to the facts of creditable witnesses. The Supreme Court may issue all needful process and prescribe all needful rules to give effect to this section. Causes of this kind shall have precedence and be tried as soon as practicable.

SEC. 7. The Legislature shall provide by law for the trial and removal from office of all officers of this State, the modes for which have not been provided in this Constitution.

#### ADDRESS.

SEC. 8. The Judges of the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals and District Courts, shall be removed by the governor on the address of two-thirds of each house of the Legislature, for wilful neglect of duty, incompetency, habitual drunkenness, oppression in office, or other reasonable cause which shall not be sufficient ground for impeachment; *provided, however,* that the cause or causes for which such removal shall be required shall be stated at length in such address and entered on the journals of each house; *and provided further,* that the cause or causes shall be notified to the judge so intended to be removed, and he shall be admitted to a hearing in his own defense before any vote for such address shall pass; and in all such cases, the vote shall be

taken by yeas and nays and entered on the journals of each house respectively. Vote by yeas and nays.

## ARTICLE XVI.

### GENERAL PROVISIONS.

SECTION 1. Members of the Legislature, and all officers, before they enter upon the duties of their offices, shall take the following oath or affirmation: "I, (——) do solemnly swear, (or affirm), that I will faithfully and impartially discharge and perform all the duties incumbent upon me as —— according to the best of my skill and ability, agreeably to the Constitution and laws of the United States and of this State; and I do further solemnly swear (or affirm), that since the adoption of the Constitution of this State, I being a citizen of this State, have not fought a duel with deadly weapons, within this State nor out of it, nor have I sent or accepted a challenge to fight a duel with deadly weapons, nor have I acted as second in carrying a challenge, or aided, advised or assisted any person thus offending. And I furthermore solemnly swear, (or affirm), that I have not directly, nor indirectly paid, offered or promised to pay, contributed, nor promised to contribute any money, or valuable thing, or promised any public office or employment, as a reward for the giving or withholding a vote at the election at which I was elected, (or if the office is one of appointment, to secure my appointment.) So help me God." Official oath prescribed.

SEC. 2. Laws shall be made to exclude from office, serving on juries, and from the right of suffrage, those who may have been or shall hereafter be convicted of bribery, perjury, forgery, or other high crimes. The privilege of free suffrage shall be protected by laws regulating elections and prohibiting under adequate penalties all undue influence therein from power, bribery, tumult, or other improper practice. Perjurers, forgers to be disfranchised. Free suffrage to be protected.

Fines and costs in cases of misdemeanor may be committed to manual labor.

SEC. 3. The Legislature shall make provisions whereby persons convicted of misdemeanors and committed to the county jails in default of payment of fines and costs, shall be required to discharge such fines and costs by manual labor, under such regulations as may be prescribed by law.

Duelling.

SEC. 4. Any citizen of this State who shall, after the adoption of this Constitution, fight a duel with deadly weapons, or send or accept a challenge to fight a duel with deadly weapons, either within this State or out of it, or who shall act as second, or knowingly assist in any manner those thus offending, shall be deprived of the right of suffrage, or of holding any office of trust or profit under this State.

Bribery in elections.

SEC. 5. Every person shall be disqualified from holding any office of profit, or trust, in this State, who shall have been convicted of having given or offered a bribe to procure his election or appointment.

No appropriations for private purposes.

Public expenditures to be published.

SEC. 6. No appropriation for private or individual purposes shall be made. A regular statement, under oath, and an account of the receipts and expenditures of all public money shall be published annually, in such manner as shall be prescribed by law.

No paper circulation to be issued.

SEC. 7. The Legislature shall, in no case, have power to issue "Treasury Warrants," "Treasury Notes," or paper of any description intended to circulate as money.

Work-house may be established.

SEC. 8. Each county in the State may provide, in such manner as may be prescribed by law, a manual labor poorhouse and farm, for taking care of, managing, employing and supplying the wants of its indigent and poor inhabitants.

Absence on business shall not forfeit residence or work disfranchisement.

SEC. 9. Absence on business of the State, or of the United States, shall not forfeit a residence once obtained, so as to deprive any one of the



right of suffrage, or of being elected or appointed to any office, under the exceptions contained in this Constitution.

SEC. 10. The Legislature shall provide for deductions from the salaries of public officers who may neglect the performance of any duty that may be assigned them by law.

Officers' salaries liable to deductions.

SEC. 11. The legal rate of interest shall not exceed eight per cent. per annum, in the absence of any contract as to the rate of interest; and by contract parties may agree upon any rate not to exceed twelve per cent. per annum. All interest charged above this last named rate shall be deemed usurious, and the Legislature shall, at its first session, provide appropriate pains and penalties to prevent and punish usury.

Interest limited.

Usury to be punished.

SEC. 12. No member of Congress, nor person holding or exercising any office of profit or trust, under the United States, or either of them, or under any foreign power, shall be eligible as a member of the Legislature, or hold or exercise any office of profit or trust under this State.

Officers shall not be eligible to Legislature, shall not hold two offices.

SEC. 13. It shall be the duty of the Legislature to pass such laws as may be necessary and proper to decide differences by arbitration, when the parties shall elect that method of trial.

Arbitration.

SEC. 14. All civil officers shall reside within the State; and all district or county officers within their districts or counties, and shall keep their offices at such places as may be required by law; and failure to comply with this condition shall vacate the office so held.

Residence of civil officers prescribed.

Non-compliance may vacate office.

SEC. 15. All property, both real and personal, of the wife, owned or claimed by her before marriage, and that acquired afterward by gift, devise or descent, shall be her separate property; and laws shall be passed more clearly defining the rights of the wife, in relation as well to her separate property as that held in common with her husband. Laws shall also be passed providing

Wife's separate property.

Registration of. for the registration of the wife's separate property.

Banking and discounting

SEC. 16. No corporate body shall hereafter be created, renewed or extended with banking or discounting privileges.

Offices to perform duties until successors qualify.

SEC. 17. All officers within this State shall continue to perform the duties of their offices until their successors shall be duly qualified.

Vested rights protected.

SEC. 18. The rights of property and of action, which have been acquired under the Constitution and laws of the Republic and State, shall not be divested; nor shall any rights or actions which have been divested, barred, or declared null and void by the Constitution of the Republic and State, be re-invested, renewed, or reinstated by this Constitution; but the same shall remain precisely in the situation which they were before the adoption of this Constitution, unless otherwise herein provided; and provided further, that no cause of action heretofore barred shall be revived.

Jurors.

SEC. 19. The Legislature shall prescribe by law the qualification of grand and petit jurors.

Intoxicating liquors, concerning sale of.

SEC. 20. The Legislature shall, at its first session, enact a law whereby the qualified voters of any county, justice's precinct, town or city, by a majority vote, from time to time, may determine whether the sale of intoxicating liquors shall be prohibited within the prescribed limits.

Stationery, printing, paper, fuel etc. to be furnished under contract.

Public printing, etc. to be let out to contractors.

SEC. 21. All stationery, and printing, except proclamations and such printing as may be done at the Deaf and Dumb Asylum, paper, and fuel used in the legislative and other departments of the government, except the judicial department, shall be furnished, and the printing and binding of the laws, journals, and department reports, and all other printing and binding, and the repairing and furnishing the halls and rooms used for the meetings of the Legislature, and its committees, shall be performed under contract, to be



given to the lowest responsible bidder, below such maximum price, and under such regulations as shall be prescribed by law. No member or officer of any department of the government shall be in any way interested in such contracts; and all such contracts shall be subject to the approval of the governor, secretary of state and comptroller.

Officers not to be interested in. By whom to be approved.

SEC. 22. The Legislature shall have the power to pass such fence laws, applicable to any subdivision of the State, or counties, as may be needed to meet the wants of the people.

Fence laws.

SEC. 23. The Legislature may pass laws for the regulation of live stock and the protection of stock raisers in the stock raising portion of the State, and exempt from the operation of such laws, other portions, sections, or counties; and shall have power to pass general and special laws for the inspection of cattle, stock and hides, and for the regulation of brands: *provided*, that any local law thus passed shall be submitted to the freeholders of the section to be affected thereby, and approved by them, before it shall go into effect.

Stock laws may be local.

SEC. 24. The Legislature shall make provision for laying out and working public roads, for the building of bridges, and for utilizing fines, forfeitures, and convict labor to all these purposes.

Public roads, etc.

Convict labor.

SEC. 25. That all drawbacks and rebatement of insurance, freight, transportation, carriage, wharfage, storage, compressing, baling, repairing, or for any other kind of labor or service, of or to any cotton, grain, or any other produce or article of commerce in this State, paid, or allowed, or contracted for, to any common carrier, shipper, merchant, commission merchant, factor, agent, or middle man of any kind, not the true and absolute owner thereof, are forever prohibited, and it shall be the duty of the Legislature to pass effective laws punishing all persons in this State who pay, receive or contract for, or respecting the same.

Drawbacks, rebatements, etc. prohibited.

Legislature to make laws punishing.



- Homicide.**            **SEC. 26.** Every person, corporation, or company, that may commit a homicide, through wilful act, or omission, or gross neglect, shall be responsible, in exemplary damages, to the surviving husband, widow, heirs of his or her body, or such of them as there may be, without regard to any criminal proceeding that may or may not be had in relation to the homicide.
- Civil action for.**    **SEC. 26.** Every person, corporation, or company, that may commit a homicide, through wilful act, or omission, or gross neglect, shall be responsible, in exemplary damages, to the surviving husband, widow, heirs of his or her body, or such of them as there may be, without regard to any criminal proceeding that may or may not be had in relation to the homicide.
- Vacancies filled for unexpired term.**            **SEC. 27.** In all elections to fill vacancies of office in this State, it shall be to fill the unexpired term only.
- Current wages exempt from garnishment.**            **SEC. 28.** No current wages for personal service shall ever be subject to garnishment.
- Barretry.**            **SEC. 29.** The Legislature shall provide by law for defining and punishing barretry.
- Duration of offices.**            **SEC. 30.** The duration of all offices not fixed by this Constitution shall never exceed two years.
- Physicians and practice of medicine.**            **SEC. 31.** The Legislature may pass laws prescribing the qualifications of practitioners of medicine in this State, and to punish persons for malpractice, but no preference shall ever be given by law to any schools of medicine.
- Board of health vital statistics.**            **SEC. 32.** The Legislature may provide by law for the establishment of a board of health and vital statistics, under such rules and regulations as it may deem proper.
- Accounting officers not to draw or pay warrants in certain cases.**            **SEC. 33.** The accounting officers of this State shall neither draw nor pay a warrant upon the treasury in favor of any person, for salary or compensation as agent, officer or appointee, who holds at the same time any other office or position of honor, trust, or profit, under this State or the United States, except as prescribed in this Constitution.
- How the U. S. may acquire forts, barracks, etc.**            **SEC. 34.** The Legislature shall pass laws authorizing the governor to lease, or sell to the government of the United States, a sufficient quantity of the public domain of the State neces-

sary for the erection of forts, barracks, arsenals, and military stations, or camps, and for other needful military purposes; and the action of the governor therein shall be subject to the approval of the Legislature.

SEC. 35. The Legislature shall, at its first session, pass laws to protect laborers on public buildings, streets, roads, railroads, canals, and other similar public works, against the failure of contractors and sub-contractors to pay their current wages when due, and to make the corporation, company or individual for whose benefit the work is done responsible for their ultimate payment.

Laborers on public works to be protected.

SEC. 36. The Legislature shall, at its first session, provide for the payment, or funding, as they may deem best, of the amounts found to be justly due to the teachers in the public schools, by the State, for service rendered prior to the first day of July, 1873, and for the payment by the school districts in the State of amounts justly due teachers of public schools by such district to January, 1876.

Teachers in the public schools, provisions for payment of.

SEC. 37. Mechanics, artisans and material men, of every class, shall have a lien upon the buildings and articles made or repaired by them for the value of their labor done thereon, or material furnished therefor; and the Legislature shall provide by law for the speedy and efficient enforcement of said liens.

Mechanics lien.

SEC. 38. The Legislature may, at such time as the public interest may require, provide for the office of commissioner of insurance, statistics and history, whose term of office, duties and salary shall be prescribed by law.

Commissioner of insurance, statistics and history.

SEC. 39. The Legislature may, from time to time, make appropriations for preserving and perpetuating memorials of the history of Texas, by means of monuments, statues, paintings and documents of historical value.

Memorials of Texas history, monuments, statues, etc.

Only one civil office to be held.      SEC. 40. No person shall hold or exercise, at the same time, more than one civil office of emolument, except that of justice of the peace, county commissioner, notary public, and postmaster, unless otherwise specially provided herein.

Exception.

Bribery.

SEC. 41. Any person who shall directly or indirectly, offer, give, or promise, any money or thing of value, testimonial, privilege or personal advantage, to any executive or judicial officer or member of the Legislature to influence him in the performance of any of his public or official duties, shall be guilty of bribery, and be punished in such manner as shall be provided by law. And any member of the Legislature, or executive or judicial officer who shall solicit, demand or receive, or consent to receive directly, or indirectly, for himself, or for another, from any company, corporation or person, any money, appointment, employment, testimonial, reward, thing of value or employment, or of personal advantage or promise thereof, for his vote or official influence, or for withholding the same, or with any understanding, expressed or implied, that his vote or official action shall be in any way influenced thereby, or who shall solicit, demand and receive any such money or other advantage, matter or thing aforesaid for another, as the consideration of his vote or official influence, in consideration of the payment or promise of such money, advantage, matter or thing to another, shall be held guilty of bribery, within the meaning of the Constitution, and shall incur the disabilities provided for said offenses, with a forfeiture of the office they may hold, and such other additional punishment as is or shall be provided by law.

Inebriate asylum.

SEC. 42. The Legislature may establish an inebriate asylum for the cure of drunkenness and reform of inebriates.

No special relief bills for exemptions.

SEC. 43. No man or set of men shall ever be exempted, relieved or discharged, from the performance of any public duty or service imposed



by general law, by any special law. Exemptions from the performance of such public duty or service shall only be made by general law.

SEC. 44. The Legislature shall prescribe the duties and provide for the election by the qualified voters of each county in this State, of a county treasurer and a county surveyor, who shall have an office at the county seat, and hold their office for two years, and until their successors are qualified; and shall have such compensation as may be provided by law.

County treasurers and surveyors.

SEC. 45. It shall be the duty of the Legislature to provide for collecting, arranging and safely keeping such records, rolls, correspondence, and other documents, civil and military, relating to the history of Texas, as may be now in the possession of parties willing to confide them to the care and preservation of the State.

Records of the history of Texas.

SEC. 46. The Legislature shall provide by law for organizing and disciplining the militia of the State, in such manner as they shall deem expedient, not incompatible with the Constitution and laws of the United States.

Militia.

SEC. 47. Any person who conscientiously scruples to bear arms, shall not be compelled to do so, but shall pay an equivalent for personal service.

Conscientious scruples against bearing arms.

SEC. 48. All laws and parts of laws now in force in the State of Texas, which are not repugnant to the Constitution of the United States, or to this Constitution, shall continue and remain in force as the laws of this State, until they expire by their own limitation or shall be amended or repealed by the Legislature.

Laws to remain in force

SEC. 49. The Legislature shall have power, and it shall be its duty, to protect by law from forced sale a certain portion of the personal property of all heads of families, and also of unmarried adults, male and female.

Exemptions from forced sales.

Homestead exemption.

SEC. 50. The homestead of a family shall be, and is hereby protected from forced sale, for the payment of all debts except for the purchase money thereof, or a part of such purchase money, the taxes due thereon, or for work and material used in constructing improvements thereon, and in this last case only when the work and material are contracted for in writing, with the consent of the wife given in the same manner as is required in making a sale and conveyance of the homestead; nor shall the owner, if a married man, sell the homestead without the consent of the wife, given in such manner as may be prescribed by law. No mortgage, trust, deed, or other lien on the homestead shall ever be valid, except for the purchase money therefor, or improvements made thereon, as hereinbefore provided, whether such mortgage, or trust deed, or other lien, shall have been created by the husband alone, or together with his wife; and all pretended sales of the homestead involving any condition of defeasance shall be void.

No encumbrance of, except for purchase money.

Pretended sales to operate as liens void.

Homestead defined.

In the country.  
City.

SEC. 51. The homestead, not in a town or city, shall consist of not more than two hundred acres of land, which may be in one or more parcels, with the improvements thereon; the homestead in a city, town, or village, shall consist of lot, or lots, not to exceed in value five thousand dollars, at the time of their designation as the homestead, without reference to the value of any improvements thereon; *provided*, that the same shall be used for the purpose of a home, or as a place to exercise the calling or business of the head of a family; *provided, also*, that any temporary renting of the homestead shall not change the character of the same, when no other homestead has been acquired.

Homestead.  
How it shall descend and vest.

SEC. 52. On the death of the husband or wife, or both, the homestead shall descend and vest in like manner as other real property of the deceased, and shall be governed by the same laws of descent and distribution, but it shall not be partitioned among the heirs of the deceased during the lifetime of the surviving husband or

wife, or so long as the survivor may elect to use or occupy the same as a homestead, or so long as the guardian of the minor children of the deceased may be permitted, under the order of the proper court having the jurisdiction, to use and occupy the same.

SEC. 53. That no inconvenience may arise from the adoption of this Constitution, it is declared that all process and writs of all kinds which have been or may be issued and not returned or executed when this Constitution is adopted, shall remain valid, and shall not be in any way affected by the adoption of this Constitution.

Declaration  
validating pro-  
cess and writs.

SEC. 54. It shall be the duty of the Legislature to provide for the custody and maintenance of indigent lunatics, at the expense of the State, under such regulations and restrictions as the Legislature may prescribe.

Indigent luna-  
tics to be pro-  
vided for.

SEC. 55. The Legislature may provide annual pensions, not to exceed one hundred and fifty dollars per annum, to surviving soldiers or volunteers, in the war between Texas and Mexico, from the commencement of the revolution in 1835, until the 1st of January, 1837; and also to the surviving signers of the declaration of independence of Texas; and to the surviving widows continuing unmarried of such soldiers and signers; *provided*, that no such pension be granted except to those in indigent circumstances, proof of which shall be made before the County Court of the county where the applicant resides, in such manner as may be provided by law.

Pensions to be  
granted only to  
the indigent.

SEC. 56. The Legislature shall have no power to appropriate any of the public money for the establishment and maintenance of a bureau of immigration, or for any purpose of bringing immigrants to this State.

No appropriation  
for immigration  
to be made.

SEC. 57. Three millions acres of the public domain are hereby appropriated and set apart for the purpose of erecting a new State capitol and other necessary public buildings at the seat of

State capitol.  
3,000,000 acres of  
land appropri-  
ated to build.



government, said lands to be sold under the direction of the Legislature ; and the Legislature shall pass suitable laws to carry this section into effect.

## ARTICLE XVII.

### MODE OF AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION OF THIS STATE.

Amendments to  
Constitution pro-  
vided for.

SECTION 1. The Legislature, at any biennial session, by a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each House, to be entered by yeas and nays on the journals, may propose amendments to the Constitution, to be voted upon by the qualified electors for members of the Legislature, which proposed amendments shall be duly published once a week for four weeks, commencing at least three months before an election, the time of which shall be specified by the Legislature, in one weekly newspaper of each county, in which such a newspaper may be published ; and it shall be the duty of the several returning officers of said election, to open a poll for, and make returns to the secretary of state, of the number of legal votes cast at said election for and against said amendments ; and if more than one be proposed, then the number of votes cast for and against each of them ; and if it shall appear from said return, that a majority of the votes cast have been cast in favor of any amendment, the said amendment so receiving a majority of the votes cast, shall become a part of this Constitution, and proclamation shall be made by the governor thereof.

Attestation.

Done by the delegates of the people of Texas, in Convention assembled, in the city of Austin, on this, the twenty-fourth day of November, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-five.

In testimony whereof we hereunto subscribe our name our names :

EDWARD B. PICKETT,  
President of the Convention.

LEIGH CHALMERS,  
Secretary of the Convention.

# INDEX TO THE CONSTITUTION.

## A.

	Art.	Sec.	Page
ABSENCE:			
from State, or United States, does not forfeit rights.....	xvi	9	66
Accounts:			
to be kept by all officers.....	iv	24	28
Accused:			
in criminal prosecutions, rights of guaranteed....	i	10	15
Address:			
Judges may be removed upon.....	xv	8	64
right of secured to the people.....	i	27	7
Adjournment:			
none exceeding three days without consent.....	iii	17	11
Agricultural and Mechanical College:			
a branch of the University of Texas.....	vii	13	45
Legislature shall make appropriation for ... ..	vii	13	45
Amendments to Constitution:			
how made.....	xvii	1	76
Appeal:			
from District Courts to Supreme Court.....	v	3	30
none for State in criminal cases.....	v	26	40
from Justices' Courts to County Courts.....	v	19	38
Appeals, Court of:			
(See "Courts.")			
Apportionment:			
representative districts.....	iii	26	13
Senatorial districts.....	iii	26	13
when to be made.....	iii	28	13
by ordinance until census.....	iii	28	13
Appropriations:			
none to be made for religious sects, societies or institutions.....	i	7	4
not to be made for extra compensation.....	iii	44	16
must be specific.....	viii	6	47
none for more than two years.....	viii	6	47
first Legislature may make until Sixteenth.....	viii	6	48
none to be made for private purposes.....	xvi	6	66
none to be made for immigration... ..	xvi	56	75
Arbitration:			
shall be provided for by law.....	xvi	13	67
Arms:			
right to bear granted.....	i	23	7
Legislature to regulate wearing.....	i	23	7
persons having conscientious scruples shall not be compelled to bear.....	xvi	47	73
Arrest:			
Senators and Representatives privileged from.....	iii	14	10
voters privileged from, at elections.....	vi	5	42

	Art.	Sec.	Page.
Assembly and Petition:			
right of guaranteed.....	i	27	7
Assessors of Taxes:			
shall be elected for each county.....	viii	14	49
Asylums:			
lands heretofore granted to.....	vii	9	44
Attainder:			
no bill of.....	i	16	6
Attendance:			
on Legislature may be enforced.....	iii	10	10
Attorney General:			
not eligible to Legislature.....	iii	19	11
election, term of office and duties.....	iv	22	27
to be elected.....	iv	2	21
Austin, city of:			
declared to be seat of government.....	iii	58	20

## B.

BAIL :			
andailable offenses.....	i	11	5
Bail:			
excessive shall not be required.....	1	13	5
Ballot:			
votes in all elections shall be by.....	vi	4	41
shall be numbered.....	vi	4	41
Banking and Discounting:			
no corporation shall be chartered with.....	xvi	16	68
Barratry:			
Legislature shall define and punish.....	xvi	29	70
Bills:			
enacting clause.....	iii	29	13
all laws shall be passed by.....	iii	30	14
amendments of.....	iii	30	14
may be amended, altered, etc.....	iii	31	14
must be read on three several days.....	iii	32	14
free discussion on allowed.....	iii	32	14
in case of necessity.....	iii	32	14
formalities in passage of required.....	iii	32	14
revenue must originate in House of Representa-			
tives.....	iii	33	14
defeated, not again to be considered.....	iii	34	14
committee must report on.....	iii	37	15
must be signed.....	iii	38	15
veto of by Governor.....	iv	14	24
must contain but one subject.....	iii	35	14
Bills of Attainder:			
shall not be made.....	i	16	6
Bill of Rights:			
Texas, free and independent.....	i	1	3
constitution of United States supreme.....	i	1	3
local self government.....	i	1	3
perpetuity of the union.....	i	1	3
the people the source of political power.....	i	2	3
pledge to republican form of government.....	i	2	3
declaration as to right of government.....	1	2	3
right to form social compacts.....	i	3	3
equal rights—no exclusive privileges.....	i	3	3
no religious tests other than belief in existence of a			
Supreme Being.....	i	4	4



	Art.	Sec.	Page.
Bill of Rights:			
no disqualification from giving evidence.....	i	5	4
oaths and affirmations taken under pains and penalties of perjury.....	i	5	4
worship and support of ministry.....	i	6	4
protection of religious denominations.....	i	6	4
conscience and religion.....	i	6	4
no appropriation for religious sects.....	i	7	4
State property not to be appropriated for religious purposes .....	i	7	4
liberty of speech and the press.....	i	8	4
truth of publication may be given in evidence....	i	8	5
when jury to determinè law and facts.....	i	8	5
seizures and searches.....	i	9	5
speedy public trial by jury.....	i	10	5
rights of accused guaranteed.....	i	10	5
right to bail.....	i	11	5
<i>Habeas corpus</i> never to be suspended.....	i	12	5
excessive bail and punishment.....	i	13	5
courts shall be open.....	i	13	6
remedy by law.....	i	13	6
of jeopardy of life and liberty.....	i	14	6
no second trial after verdict.....	i	14	6
trial by jury inviolate.....	i	15	6
attainder, <i>ex post facto</i> law, etc.....	i	16	6
compensation for property taken.....	i	17	6
no imprisonment for debt.....	i	18	6
life, liberty and property to be secured.....	i	19	6
no outlawry or transportation... ..	i	20	6
conviction shall not work corruption of blood....	i	21	6
or forfeiture of estate.....	i	21	6
property of suicides, how descends.....	i	21	7
treason defined.....	i	22	7
two witnesses necessary for conviction.....	i	22	7
or confession in open court.....	i	22	7
keeping and bearing arms.....	i	23	7
Legislature to regulate.....	i	23	7
military subordinate to civil.....	i	24	7
quartering of soldiers.....	i	25	7
perpetuities and monopolies.....	i	26	7
primogeniture and entailments.....	i	26	7
right of assembling and petitioning.....	i	27	7
suspension of laws alone by Legislature.....	i	28	7
"bill of rights" excepted out of the general powers of government.....	i	29	7
Board of Education:			
Governor, Comptroller and Secretary of State constitute.....	vii	8	44
Bridges:			
shall be provided by general laws.....	xi	2	54
provisions to be made for.....	xvi	24	69
Bribery:			
to procure appointment or election.....	xvi	5	72
in offices and officers.....	xvi	41	66
C.			
Capital, State:			
Austin declared to be the.....	iii	58	20
appropriation in land for new.....	xvi	57	75

	Art.	Sec.	Page.
<b>Carrier, Common:</b>			
railroads declared to be.....	x	2	52
drawbacks, rebatements, etc., prohibited.....	xvi	25	69
<b>Challenge to fight duel.....</b>	xvi	4	60
<b>Changing names:</b>			
provided by general law.....	iii	56	19
<b>Changing venue:</b>			
power to be vested in the courts.....	iii	45	16
regulated by general law.....	iii	56	19
<b>Children:</b>			
adoption of.....	iii	56	19
<b>Cities and towns:</b>			
voters in.....	vi	3	41
(See "Corporations, Municipal.").....	xi	1	54
<b>Civil Authority:</b>			
superior to military.....	i	24	7
<b>Clerks of courts of record:</b>			
ineligible to Legislature.....	iii	19	11
<b>Clerks of Supreme Court:</b>			
one for each branch.....	v	4	30
shall give bond.....	v	4	30
term of office four years.....	v	4	30
may be removed by Supreme Court.....	v	4	30
appointed by Supreme Court.....	v	4	30
<b>Clerk of Court of Appeals:</b>			
appointed by court.....	v	6	31
one for each branch.....	v	6	31
shall give bond.....	v	6	31
term of office four years.....	v	6	31
may be removed by court.....	v	6	31
<b>Clerks of District Court:</b>			
shall be elected.....	v	9	33
term of office two years.....	v	9	33
may be removed, and how.....	v	2	39
vacancy in, District Judge may fill.....	v	9	33
subject to removal by information, etc.....	v	9	33
<b>Clerks of County Courts:</b>			
shall be elected.....	v	20	38
term of office.....	v	20	28
to be clerk of Commissioners' Courts.....	v	20	38
compensation, perquisites and fees.....	v	20	38
vacancy filled by Commissioners' Court.....	v	20	38
may be removed by District Court.....	v	24	39
the recorder for the county.....	v	20	38
may be blended with clerk of District Court in counties with less than 8000 population.....	v	20	38
<b>Collectors of Taxes:</b>			
sheriffs shall be in counties with population under 10,000.....	viii	16	50
in counties with over 10,000, to be elected.....	viii	16	50
term of office.....	viii	16	50
<b>Commander-in-Chief:</b>			
Governor shall be the.....	iv	7	22
<b>Commissions:</b>			
shall be in name of the State.....	iv	20	26
how signed, sealed and attested.....	iv	20	27
<b>Commissioners, County:</b>			
four in each county.....	v	18	37
term of office two years.....	v	18	38

	Art.	Sec.	Page.
Commissioners, County:			
county divided into four precincts.....	v	18	37
with County Judges, compose court.....	v	18	38
have jurisdiction of county affairs.....	v	18	38
(See "Courts, commissioners.")			
may provide for sale of county school lands.....	vii	6	43
Commissioner of General Land Office:			
to be elected.....	iv	2	21
term of office and compensation.....	iv	23	28
Commissioner of Insurance, Statistics and History:			
Legislature may create.....	xvi	38	71
Commission Merchants:			
drawbacks, rebatements, etc., prohibited.....	xvi	25	69
Common Carriers:			
railroads declared to be.....	x	2	52
drawbacks, rebatements, etc., prohibited.....	xvi	25	69
Compensation:			
for property taken for public use.....	i	17	6
of officers, to be provided by Legislature.....	iii	44	16
extra not to be allowed.....	iii	44	16
no appropriation to be made for extra.....	iii	44	16
no extra to be granted.....	iii	53	18
of Governor, \$4,000.....	iv	5	22
Lieutenant Governor, per diem.....	iv	17	26
Secretary of State, \$2,000.....	iv	21	27
Comptroller of Public Accounts, \$2,000.....	iv	23	28
Treasurer, \$2,000.....	iv	23	28
Commissioner of General Land Office, \$2,000.....	iv	23	28
Attorney General, \$2,000 and fees.....	iv	22	27
Judges of Supreme Court, \$3,550.....	v	2	29
Judges of Court of Appeals, \$3,550.....	v	5	31
Judges of District Courts, \$2,500.....	v	7	32
Judges of County Courts, fees.....	v	15	35
District Attorneys, \$500.....	v	21	39
Comptroller of Public Accounts:			
to be elected.....	iv	2	21
term of office and compensation.....	iv	23	28
to invest proceeds of school lands.....	vii	4	42
member of Board of Education.....	vii	8	44
to apportion among counties tax collected from railroads.....	viii	8	48
to prepare mileage table of distances.....	iii	24	12
impeachment of.....	xv	2	63
Conscience—Liberty of guaranteed.....	i	66	4
Constable:			
to be elected in each justice precinct.....	v	18	37
term of office, etc.....	v	18	37
Constitution of United States:			
supremacy of, recognized.....	i	1	3
Constitution:			
rights of property and rights of action existing not affected, not divested, nor revived.....	xvi	18	68
how amended.....	xvii	1	76
Contested Elections:			
for executive officers, how determined.....	iv	3	21
Contracts:			
For repairing public buildings and property, print- ing, stationery, etc., to be let out to lowest bidder.....	xvi	21	68



	Art.	Sec.	Page.
Convict Labor:			
utilized on public works, roads, etc . . . . .	xvi	24	69
Convicts:			
shall not vote . . . . .	vi	1	40
Corporations:			
not to be subsidized by State, counties or municipal authorities . . . . .	iii	51	18
State, county, city or town, not be stockholders in nor lend its credit to . . . . .	iii	52	18
the power to tax them shall not be surrendered . . . . .	viii	4	47
Corporations, Municipal:			
the several counties recognized . . . . .	xi	1	54
county buildings, institutions, roads, etc., to be provided for by general laws . . . . .	xi	2	54
shall not aid private corporations . . . . .	xi	3	54
cities and towns of under 10,000 inhabitants may not be specially chartered . . . . .	xi	4	55
power to tax, and restrictions . . . . .	xi	4	55
taxes to be collected in money only . . . . .	xi	4	55
cities and towns of over 10,000 may be specially chartered . . . . .	xi	5	55
no tax exceeding 2½ per cent. . . . .	xi	5	55
restriction upon the creation of debt . . . . .	xi	5	55
counties, cities and towns may levy tax, . . . . .	xi	6	55
regulations as to taxes . . . . .	xi	6	55
counties and cities on Gulf of Mexico may tax to construct sea walls, etc. . . . .	xi	7	55
regulations as to such taxes . . . . .	xi	7	56
restrictions upon contracting debts . . . . .	xi	7	56
counties and cities on Gulf of Mexico may have State aid . . . . .	xi	8	56
public property of, exemption from forced sale and taxation . . . . .	xi	9	56
any city or town may be constituted a separate school district . . . . .	xi	10	56
counties may provide "poor houses" . . . . .	xvi	8	66
Corporations, Private:			
shall be created only by general law . . . . .	xii	1	57
general laws shall be passed incorporating . . . . .	xii	2	57
franchises granted to, shall be subject to Legislative control . . . . .	xii	3	57
to be under surveillance of Attorney General and District Attorneys . . . . .	xii	4	57
Legislature to pass laws to prevent abuse of chartered powers granted . . . . .	xii	4	57
freights, fares, tolls, etc., to be under control of Legislature . . . . .	xii	5	57
stocks or bonds, restrictions upon issue . . . . .	xii	6	57
vested rights and existing grants not affected . . . . .	xii	7	58
Corruption of Blood:			
no conviction shall work . . . . .	i	21	6
County Clerk—(See "Clerks.") . . . . .	v	20	38
County Courts—(See "Courts.") . . . . .	v	16	35
County Judges:—(See "Courts.") . . . . .	v	15	35
County Attorney:			
shall be elected in county where no District Attorney resides . . . . .	v	21	38
term of office two years . . . . .	v	21	39
vacancy, how filled . . . . .	v	21	39
duties prescribed . . . . .	v	21	39

	Art.	Sec.	Page.
County Occupation Tax:			
one-half of State tax.....	viii	1	47
County Poor House:			
Legislature shall provide for construction of.....	xi	2	54
County Surveyor:			
duties of to be prescribed by Legislature.....	xvi	44	73
term of office two years.....	xvi	44	73
County Treasurer:			
duties of to be prescribed by law.....	xvi	44	73
term of office two years.....	xvi	44	73
Counties—(See “Municipal Corporations.”)			
Legislature empowered to create.....	ix	1	50
shall not aid private corporations.....	xi	2	54
County Seats:			
removal to be regulated by law.....	ix	2	51
Courts:			
shall be open.....	i	13	6
Court. Supreme, and Justices:			
Chief Justice and two Associate Justices.....	v	2	29
two a quorum.....	v	2	29
qualifications of Justices.....	v	2	29
shall be elected.....	v	2	29
term of office six years.....	v	2	29
salary \$3,550.....	v	2	29
vacancy, Governor shall fill until.....	v	2	29
appellate jurisdiction only.....	v	3	30
jurisdiction defined.....	v	3	30
appeals from interlocutory judgments.....	v	3	30
may issue writs of mandamus, etc.....	v	3	30
ascertain matters of jurisdictional fact.....	v	3	30
terms of court.....	v	3	30
sessions at Austin and two other places.....	v	3	30
shall appoint a clerk for each branch.....	v	4	30
shall have power to make rules of practice in all courts.....	v	29	40
vacancies in shall be filled by Governor.....	v	28	40
impeachment of Judges.....	xv	2	63
removal by address.....	xv	8	64
may remove District Judges.....	xv	6	63
transfer of causes to Court of Appeals.....	v	8	33
when Judges disqualified, Governor shall commis- sion.....	v	11	33
shall be conservators of the peace.....	v	12	34
Court of Appeals and Judges:			
consists of three Judges....	v	5	30
two a quorum.....	v	5	30
Judges shall be elected.....	v	5	30
qualifications.....	v	5	30
term of office six years.....	v	5	31
salary \$3,550.....	v	5	31
jurisdiction defined.....	v	6	31
opinions in civil cases not to be published.....	v	6	31
power to issue writs of <i>habeas corpus</i> .....	v	6	31
may ascertain jurisdictional facts.....	v	6	31
terms of Court, where held.....	v	6	31
shall appoint clerk for each branch.....	v	6	31
causes transferred to, from Supreme Court.....	v	8	33
when Judges disqualified, Governor shall appoint..	v	11	34
shall be conservators of the peace.....	v	12	34

	Art.	Sec.	Page.
Court of Appeals and Judges:			
vacancies filled by Governor.....	v	28	40
impeachment and removal.....	xv	2	63
removal by address.....	xv	8	64
Courts, District, and Judges:			
original jurisdiction prescribed.....	v	8	32
appellate jurisdiction prescribed.....	v	8	33
may appoint clerk of District Court in case of vacancy.....	v	9	33
jury trial upon application, in civil cases.....	v	10	33
judge shall not sit, if interested.....	v	11	33
or otherwise disqualified.....	v	11	33
parties may appoint by consent.....	v	11	34
or competent person may be appointed to try.....	v	11	34
Judges may exchange districts.....	v	11	34
shall be conservators of the peace.....	v	12	34
twenty-six districts, may be increased or diminished	v	7	31
Judges elected, term of office.....	v	7	31
qualification of Judges.....	v	7	32
semi-annual terms of court.....	v	7	32
special terms may be authorized.....	v	7	32
terms of, fixed by ordinance.....	v	14	35
may remove county judges, county attorneys, county clerks, district clerks, justices of the peace, and other county officers.....	v	24	39
may have original jurisdiction, where County Judge disqualified.....	v	16	36
vacancies filled by Governor.....	v	28	40
impeachment and removal.....	xv	2	63
removal by address.....	xv	8	64
removal by Supreme Court.....	xv	6	64
Courts, Criminal District:			
when Legislature may establish.....	v	1	29
Court, Criminal District, of Harris and Galveston:			
continues as organized until otherwise provided by law.....	v	1	29
Courts, County, and Judges:			
shall be established in each county.....	v	15	35
a court of record.....	v	15	35
a judge to be elected.....	v	15	35
shall be well informed in the law.....	v	15	35
shall be conservator of peace.....	v	15	35
term of office two years.....	v	15	35
compensation—fees and perquisites.....	v	15	35
jurisdiction, original.....	v	16	35
jurisdiction, appellate.....	v	16	36
jurisdiction, probate.....	v	16	36
issue <i>mandamus</i> , injunctions and other writs ne- cessary to enforce jurisdiction.....	v	16	36
<i>Habeas corpus</i> .....	v	16	36
no jurisdiction in county where Criminal Court, unless authorized.....	v	16	36
when County Judge disqualified, District Court may try.....	v	16	36
District Court in such case may have original juris- diction.....	v	16	36
terms of civil business.....	v	17	37
dispose of probate business in term and vacation..	v	17	37
terms for criminal business, monthly.....	v	17	37
prosecutions may be by information or affidavit...	v	17	37



Courts, County, and Judges:	Art.	Sec.	Page.
Grand Jury returning to District Courts indictments for misdemeanors—they shall be transferred to County or inferior courts.....	v	17	37
jury of six men.....	v	17	37
jury must be demanded in civil cases.....	v	17	37
and jury fee paid.....	v	17	36
County Judge may be removed by District Court ..	v	24	39
County Judge presiding officer of Commissioner's Court.....	v	18	37
Vacancy in County Judge, how filled.....	v	28	40
Justices of the Peace:			
Justices' precincts.....	v	18	37
Justices of the Peace elected for each.....	v	18	37
term of office two years.....	v	18	37
two in a city of over 8000 inhabitants.....	v	18	37
jurisdiction, \$200 and under.....	v	19	38
appeals from to County Court.....	v	19	38
<i>ex-officio</i> notaries public.....	v	19	38
may be removed by District Court.....	v	24	39
vacancies filled by Commissioners' Courts.....	v	28	40
County Commissioners:			
four Commissioners' precincts in each county....	v	18	37
one Commissioner elected in each.....	v	18	37
term of office two years.....	v	18	38
administer county affairs.....	v	18	38
power and jurisdiction to be prescribed.....	v	18	38
Commissioners may be removed by District Court.	v	24	39
fill vacancies in County Judge and Justices.....	v	28	40
Credit of the State:			
not to be loaned or given for any private purpose.	iii	50	17
Criminal Prosecutions:			
rights of accused in.....	i	10	5
Cruel and Unusual Punishments.....	i	13	5
never to be inflicted.....	i	13	5
<b>D</b>			
DEBATE:			
privileged.....	iii	21	12
Debt:			
no imprisonment for.....	i	18	6
Debt—State:			
none to be created, with exception.....	iii	49	17
amount limited.....	iii	49	17
Department of Government:			
division of.....	ii	1	8
Districts:			
Senatorial—State to be divided into.....	iii	25	12
Representative—State to divided into.....	iii	26	13
Representative—apportionment of State.....	iii	26	13
District Attorney:			
Legislature to provide for election.....	v	21	39
compensation not to exceed \$500 and fees.....	v	21	39
District Courts—(see "Courts, District.").....	v	7	31
District Clerks—(see "Clerks, District.").....	v	9	33
District Judges—(see "Courts, District.").....	v	7	31
Divorce:			
granted by District Courts under general laws.....	iii	56	19
Division of the powers of government:.....	ii	1	8

	Art.	Sec.	Page.
Drawbacks and Rebatelements:			
prohibited.....	xvi	25	69
Duelling:			
disfranchises the party guilty.....	xvi	4	66
<b>E.</b>			
<b>EDUCATION AND FREE SCHOOLS:</b>			
Legislature to provide for the maintenance and support of public free schools.....	vii	1	42
perpetual public school fund defined.....	vii	2	42
not exceeding one-fourth of general revenue shall be set apart, with poll tax of \$1 .....	vii	3	42
lands set apart shall be sold.....	vii	4	42
no relief shall be granted to purchasers.....	vii	4	42
proceeds to be invested in State bonds or United States bonds.....	vii	4	43
permanent school fund defined.....	vii	5	43
interest and taxes authorized, to be available fund school fund to be held inviolate.....	vii	5	43
available fund to be distributed to the counties....	vii	5	43
county school lands may be sold by Commissioners' Court .....	vii	6	43
proceeds to be invested.....	vii	6	43
separate schools for white and colored.....	vii	7	44
Board of Education.....	vii	8	44
Elections:			
laws regulating, shall be passed.....	xvi	2	65
undue influence therein, to be prohibited.....	xvi	2	65
bribery to secure election, disqualifies... ..	xvi	5	66
voting to be by ballot.....	vi	4	41
regulations to be made to preserve purity in.....	vi	4	41
voters privileged from arrest, etc., except, etc....	vi	5	42
election precincts, voting done only at.....	vi	2	41
returns for executive officers.....	iv	3	21
contested, for executive officers.....	iv	3	21
in Legislature.....	iii	41	15
<i>viva voce</i> , except when electing officers.....	iii	41	15
for Representatives and Senators, to be general... ..	iii	27	13
and regulated by law.....	iii	27	13
vacancies in Legislature.....	iii	13	10
returning officers to issue writs of, when.....	iii	13	10
contested, to be determined by law.....	iii	8	9
Electors:			
who are qualified electors.....	vi	2	41
who are qualified electors of cities and towns....	vi	3	41
tax-payers only to vote on expenditure of money..	vi	3	41
declaration of intention by foreigner qualifies....	vi	2	41
must vote at precinct of residence.....	vi	2	41
Eminent Domain:			
right of, how to be exercised.....	i	17	6
Entailment:			
no law of, to be passed.....	i	26	7
Equality before the law.....	i	3	3
Equity and law:			
administered without distinction by District Courts	v	8	32
Escheats and Forfeiture:			
accrued under former Constitutions accrue under this .....	xiii	1	58
Legislature to provide for determining and giving effect to escheats.....	xiii	1	58

	Art.	Sec.	Page.
Estates:			
administered in County Courts.....	v	16	36
Exclusive Privileges:			
none entitled to, but in consideration of public service.....	i	3	3
Executive Department:			
office of.....	iv	1	21
Exemptions and Privileges:			
from performance of duty imposed, shall by general law only.....	xvi	13	73
Exemptions from Forced Sale:			
Legislature may exempt portion of personal property.....	xvi	49	73
homestead exemption.....	xvi	50	74
current wages exempt from process.....	xvi	28	70
municipal property used for public purposes exempts from forced sale and taxes.....	xi	9	56
\$250 worth of household property exempt from taxation.....	viii	1	46
Legislature may exempt public property.....	viii	2	47
<i>Ex post facto</i> Law:			
none shall be made.....	i	16	6
Expulsion:			
members of Legislature may be expelled.....	iii	11	10
Extra Compensation;			
not to be granted or allowed.....	iii	53	18
no appropriation to be made for.....	iii	44	16
Extra Sessions:			
of Legislature, restrictions upon.....	iii	40	15
<b>F</b>			
FELONY;			
in cases of, District Judges and courts may grant writs of <i>habeas corpus</i> .....	v	8	32
District Courts have jurisdiction.....	v	8	32
trial on indictment of Grand Jury.....	i	10	5
Fence Laws:			
Legislature may pass local.....	xvi	22	69
Fines:			
excessive, never to be imposed.....	i	13	5
and costs—Legislature shall make laws commuting for manual labor.....	xvi	3	66
Legislature to pass laws, utilizing on public roads and building bridges.....	xvi	24	69
Fiscal Affairs:			
(See "Comptroller of Public Accounts.")			
Forfeiture of Estate:			
conviction shall not work.....	i	21	6
nor suicide.....	i	21	5
Forfeiture and Escheat:.....	xiii	1	58
Forfeited and Escheated Lands:			
Legislature to make provisions concerning,.....	iii	1	58
Forgery:			
Legislature shall make laws disfranchising persons convicted of.....	xvi	2	65
Forgers of Land Titles;			
laws to be passed for detection and conviction of.....	xiii	6	60
Forced Sales:			
portion of personal property may be exempted....	xvi	49	73
homestead.....	xvi	50	74



	Art.	Sec.	Page.
Forced Sales:			
public property of counties, cities and towns.....	xvi	9	56
Forts, Barracks, Arsenals, etc.:			
of United States, sale of or lease for.....	xi	34	70
Franchise of the Citizen:			
to be forfeited on conviction of bribery, forgery, perjury, etc.....	xvi	2	65
forfeited only by due course of law.....	i	19	6
Franchises granted:			
subject to control of Legislature.....	i	17	6
granted to corporations, subject to Legislative con- trol and authority.....	xii	3	57
freights, fares, tolls, wharfage, etc., subject to Legislative control, or abrogation.....	xii	5	57

## G.

GARNISHMENT:			
Current wages for personal service shall not be gar- nished .....	xvi	28	70
General laws only:			
shall be passed in relation to :—			
liens .....	iii	56	19
municipal affairs.....	iii	56	19
changing names of persons or places.....	iii	56	19
changing venue.....	iii	56	19
roads, highways, streets and alleys.....	iii	56	19
ferries and bridges, wholly within the State.....	iii	55	19
vacating roads, town plats, streets or alleys.....	iii	56	19
cemeteries, public grounds, not of the State.....	iii	56	19
adoption or legitimation.....	iii	56	19
location or change of county seats.....	iii	56	19
municipal corporations, amending their charters..	iii	56	19
elections and voting places.....	iii	56	19
divorces.....	iii	56	19
municipal offices, elections or school districts....	iii	56	19
descent or succession.....	iii	56	19
judicial proceedings, practice or evidence.....	iii	56	19
collection of debts.....	iii	56	19
enforcing judgments.....	iii	56	19
judicial sales of real estate.....	iii	56	19
fees, powers, duties of aldermen, justices or con- stables .....	iii	56	19
public schools and their support.....	iii	56	19
rate of interest.....	iii	56	19
affecting estates of persons under liabilities.....	iii	56	19
remitting fines, penalties, forfeitures and refund- ing money.....	iii	56	20
exempting property from taxation.....	iii	56	20
regulation of trade, labor, mining and manufac- ing.....	iii	56	20
disabilities from minority.....	iii	56	20
relief of tax assessors or collectors.....	iii	56	20
informal or invalid wills or deeds... ..	iii	56	20
summoning jurors.....	ii	56	20
limitation of actions.....	iii	56	20
incorporation of railroads or internal improve- ments.....	iii	56	20

General laws only:	Art.	Sec.	Page.
in all cases where general law can be made applicable.....	iii	56	20
exemptions from public duty or service.....	xvi	43	72
taxes levied and collected by.....	viii	3	47
private corporations only created by.....	xii	1	57
public and stockholders to be protected by.....	xii	2	57
General Provisions.....	xvi.....		65
Governor:			
chief executive officer.....	iv	1	21
when to be elected.....	iv	2	21
when to be installed.....	iv	4	21
term of office two years.....	iv	4	21
qualifications.....	iv	4	22
compensation, \$4,000. ....	iv	5	22
shall hold no other office.....	iv	6	22
other inhibitions against.....	iv	6	22
commander-in-chief.....	iv	7	22
may call out militia.....	iv	7	22
call extra session of Legislature.....	iv	8	22
advise Legislature by messages.....	iv	9	22
account for public money received and paid.....	iv	9	23
make and present estimates for taxation.....	iv	9	23
cause laws to be executed.....	iv	10	23
conduct foreign intercourse.....	iv	10	23
grant reprieves and pardons.....	iv	11	23
remit fines and forfeitures.....	iv	11	23
fill vacancies.....	iv	12	23
where shall reside....	iv	13	24
veto power.....	iv	14	24
approve or veto, orders, resolutions, etc.....	iv	15	25
sign commissions.....	iv	20	27
appoint Secretary of State.....	iv	21	27
issue writs of election to fill vacancy in Legislature	iii	13	10
fill vacancies in the Judiciary.....	v	28	40
member of Board of Education.....	vii	8	44
impeachment of.....	xv	2	63
fill vacancies when officer is suspended by impeach- ment.....	xv	5	63
shall remove judges on address.....	xv	8	64
may require from accounting officer information..	iv	24	28
shall appoint notaries public.....	iv	26	28
Government, Powers of:			
divided into legislative, executive and judicial....	ii	1	8
the powers of the one not to be exercised by the other.....	ii	1	8
Grand and Petit Jurors:			
qualifications of, to be prescribed.....	xvi	19	68
trial on indictment of a, in felonies.....	i	10	5
in District Court, twelve men.....	v	13	34
nine members a quorum to present bills.....	v	13	34
Guardians and Wards:			
jurisdiction of county court.....	v	16	36
appellate and general control by District Court...	v	8	33

## H.

	Art.	Sec.	Page.
HABEAS CORPUS:			
writ of, never to be suspended.....	i	12	5
Legislature to make this remedy speedy and effectual.....	i	12	5
Court of Appeals, and Judges thereof, may issue..	v	6	31
District Court, and Judges thereof, may issue when applicant is charged with felony.....	v	8	32
County Court, and Judges thereof, may issue when applicant is charged with offense within juris- diction.....	v	16	36
Health and Vital Statistics:			
board of, may be established... ..	xvi	32	70
Highways, railroads declared to be public.....	x	2	52
History of Texas:			
appropriations for preserving memorials of may be made .....	xvi	39	71
records, rolls, and correspondence relating to, Legislature to make provision for.....	xvi	45	73
Homestead:			
is protected from forced sale.....	xvi	50	74
except for purchase money, taxes and mechanic's lien.....	xvi	50	74
no other lien can be created thereon... ..	xvi	50	74
pretended sales, to evade, void.....	xvi	50	74
not in town or city defined.....	xvi	51	74
in town, city or village.....	xvi	51	74
temporary renting not to change character.....	xvi	51	74
how it descends and vests.....	xvi	52	74
homestead of 160 acres granted to head of family.	xiv	6	62
homestead of 80 acres granted to single men.....	xiv	6	62
Homicide:			
through willful act, omission, or gross negligence, gives right of action in exemplary damages....	xvi	26	70
action in favor of husband, widow and heirs.....	xvi	26	70
House and Senate:			
provisions common to both:—			
qualification and election, each the judge.....	iii	8	9
quorum, two-thirds of each.....	iii	10	10
less may compel attendance.....	iii	10	10
determine rules of proceedings of each.....	iii	11	10
may punish members.....	iii	11	10
expulsion, but not a second, for same offense....	iii	11	10
shall keep and publish journal.....	iii	12	10
yeas and nays, three may demand.....	iii	12	10
vacancies provided for.....	iii	13	10
punish persons not members.....	iii	15	10
open sessions, except Senate in executive.....	iii	16	11
adjournments not longer than three days.....	iii	17	11
no adjournment to other place without concur- rence.....	iii	17	11
elect their own officers.....	iii	9	9
members privileged from arrest.....	iii	14	10
ineligible to other office.....	iii	18	11
other officers ineligible as members .....	iii	19	11



House and Senate :	Art.	Sec.	Page.
officers charged with public money ineligible until discharged . . . . .	iii	20	11
privileged in debate . . . . .	iii	21	12
personal or private interest to be disclosed, and shall not vote . . . . .	iii	22	12
removal from district vacates office . . . . .	iii	23	12
compensation, per diem and mileage . . . . .	iii	24	12
members elected at general election to be regulated by law . . . . .	iii	27	13
apportionment after each census to be made . . . . .	iii	28	13
apportioned by ordinance until next census . . . . .	iii	28	13
oath of, prescribed . . . . .	xvi	1	65
bribery of . . . . .	xvi	41	72
<b>House of Representatives and Members :</b>			
a branch of the Legislature . . . . .	iii	1	8
not less than ninety-three nor more than one hundred and fifty . . . . .	iii	2	8
elected for two years from date of election . . . . .	iii	4	9
qualifications prescribed . . . . .	iii	7	9
shall organize, temporarily and elect speaker . . . . .	iii	9	9
to be apportioned, and how . . . . .	iii	26	13
after each decennial census . . . . .	iii	28	13
apportioned by ordinance until next census . . . . .	iii	28	13
revenue bills must originate in . . . . .	iii	33	14
power of impeachment vested in . . . . .	xv	1	63
<b>I.</b>			
<b>INELIGIBILITY :</b>			
holding office . . . . .	iii	19	11
being member of Legislature . . . . .	iii	18	11
duelling . . . . .	xvi	4	66
conviction of bribery in procuring election . . . . .	xvi	5	66
defaulting tax collectors and officers . . . . .	iii	20	11
members of Congress, etc . . . . .	xvi	12	67
<b>Infants :</b>			
shall not vote . . . . .	vi	1	40
<b>Informations :</b>			
prosecutions may be by, in county court . . . . .	v	17	37
<b>Injuries :</b>			
remedy for, by due course of law . . . . .	i	13	6
<b>Interest and Usury :</b>			
legal rate established, eight per cent , not to exceed twelve, by contract . . . . .	xvi	11	47
<b>Intoxicating Liquors :</b>			
Legislature authorized to prohibit sale of by local vote . . . . .	xvi	20	68
<b>Inauguration :</b>			
of Governor when . . . . .	iv	4	21
<b>Idiots and Lunatics :</b>			
no appropriation to be made for . . . . .	v	16	36
shall not vote . . . . .	vi	1	40

	Art.	Sec.	Page.
Immigration:			
no appropriation to be made for.....	xvi	56	75
Impeachment and Address:			
power vested in House of Representatives.....	xv	1	63
what officers may be removed by.....	xv	2	63
Senate as a court of.....	xv	3	63
oath of Senators in cases of.....	xv	3	63
concurrence of two-thirds required.....	xv	3	63
judgment extends only to removal and.....	xv	4	63
disqualifications from holding office.....	xv	4	63
articles preferred suspends functions.....	xv	5	63
provisional appointments by Governor.....	xv	5	63
judges of district courts may be removed by Supreme Court.....	xv	6	64
judges may be removed by address.....	xv	7	64
Imprisonment for Debt:			
no person shall ever suffer.....	i	18	6
Income Tax:			
may be levied.....	viii	1	46
Indebtedness to State, County, etc.:			
no power to release.....	iii	55	18
by railroads, to be enforced as contracted.....	iii	54	18
no relief to purchasers of University lands.....	vii	12	45
no relief to purchasers of University lands.....	vii	15	46
Indictments and Presentments:			
in libel, jury to determine law and facts.....	i	8	5
by grand jury in felony.....	i	10	5
beginning and conclusion of.....	v	12	34
grand jury, nine members may present.....	v	13	34
Inebriate Asylums:			
may be established.....	xvi	42	72
J.			
JAILS:			
the construction shall be provided by general law..	xi	2	54
Jeopardy:			
of life and liberty.....	i	14	6
Journals of Legislature:			
each House shall keep and publish..	iii	12	10
and enter "yeas and nays" when.....	iii	12	10
the fact of signing bills shall be entered on.....	iii	38	15
Judges—(See "Courts"):			
not eligible to Legislature.....	iii	19	11
may be impeached.....	xv	2	23
may be removed by Governor on address.....	xv	8	64
when disqualified.....	v	11	33
District Judges may be removed by Supreme Court.....	xv	6	64
shall be conservators of peace.....	v	12	34
County Judge shall also be conservator.....	v	15	35
Judicial Department:			
one of the departments of government.....	ii	1	8
courts established.....	v	1	29

Judicial Districts:	Art.	Sec.	Page.
twenty-six, but Legislature may increase or diminish .....	v	7	31
fixed by ordinance until otherwise provided.....	v	14	35
Jurisdiction:			
Legislature may alter and change, of courts.....	v	22	39
Jurors, Grand and Petit:			
qualifications shall be prescribed.....	xvi	19	68
Jury, Grand and Petit.			
trial by, shall be inviolate.....	i	15	6
in civil case, in District Court, must be demanded	v	10	33
and jury fee paid.....	v	10	33
in libel, shall determine the law and facts.....	i	8	5
in District Court, composed of twelve.....	v	13	34
nine may return verdict.....	v	13	34
Legislature may require unanimity.....	v	13	34
grand jury of twelve.....	v	13	34
nine may find indictments.....	v	13	34
in County Court, jury of six.....	v	17	37
jury must be demanded in civil cases.....	v	17	37
must be demanded and paid for.....	v	17	37
Justices of the Peace:			
(See "Courts.")			
shall be <i>ex officio</i> notaries public.....	v	19	38
may be removed by District Judges.....	v	24	39

## L.

Laborers:			
laws for the protection of, shall be enacted.....	xvi	35	71
Land and Land Office:			
one General Land Office.....	xiv	1	60
titles from State to be registered in.....	xiv	1	60
to be made self-sustaining.....	xiv	1	60
subordinate offices may be established.....	xiv	1	60
genuine land certificates barred by Constitution of			
1869, by failure to locate, revived .....	xiv	2	60
land certificates to be located within five years, or			
shall be barred.....	xiv	2	60
hereafter issued to be located in five years.....	xiv	2	60
to be located on vacant domain, and not on titled			
land, or land equitably owned.....	xiv	2	60
grants to railway companies, how made, and con-			
ditions .....	xiv	3	61
no land certificates to be sold except to actual set-			
tlers, and not exceeding 160 acres.....	xiv	4	61
provisions concerning grants to railway companies			
and the forfeiture thereof.....	xiv	5	61
160 acres granted to head of a family, on con-			
ditions.....	xiv	6	62
80 acres granted to single men on same conditions.	xiv	6	62
mines and minerals released by State to owners of			
land.....	xiv	7	62
time extended to persons residing between Nueces			
and Rio Grande to complete surveys and plats			
and return to Land Office.....	xiv	8	62



	Art.	Sec.	Page.
Land Certificates:			
revived, and time extended for location.....	xiv	2	60
sold at Land Office only to actual settlers.....	xiv	4	61
hereafter to be located within five years.....	xiv	2	60
Law and Equity.....	v	8	32
Law of Entailment.....	i	26	7
Law, <i>ex post facto</i> .....	i	16	6
Law impairing obligation of contract.....	i	16	6
Law of primogeniture.....	i	26	7
Law retroactive.....	i	16	6
Law of the land.....	i	13, 19	6
Laws:			
Legislature only may suspend.....	i	28	7
not repugnant to this Constitution, to remain in force until expired or repealed.....	xvi	48	73
first Legislature to provide for revision.....	iii	43	16
may be revised every ten years.....	iii	43	16
must be passed by bills.....	iii	30	14
shall not be amended, revived, etc., by reference to title.....	iii	36	14
when to take effect.....	iii	39	15
enacting clause, "Be it enacted," etc.....	iii	29	13
Governor shall cause to be executed.....	iv	10	23
Laws, Local and Special:			
which shall not be passed, enumerated.....	iii	56	19
shall not be made, when general law can be made applicable.....	iii	56	19
exception, preservation of fish and game.....	iii	56	20
thirty days' notice of intended application required to be published.....	iii	57	20
local option liquor law shall be enacted.....	xvi	20	68
local fence laws may be enacted.....	xvi	22	69
stock laws may be enacted.....	xvi	23	69
Legislature— <i>Shall at First Session:</i>			
provide for revising and digesting the laws.....	iii	43	16
enact efficient vagrant laws.....	iii	46	16
provide for transfer of business in courts to proper jurisdiction.....	v	27	40
make appropriation for Agricultural and Mechan- ical College of Texas.....	vii	13	45
provide for speedy sale of land for taxes due thereon.....	viii	13	49
provide mode of procedure to prevent the illegal demand of freights, wharfage, fares and tolls... provide pains and penalties against usury.....	xii	4	57
provide for a local option liquor law.....	xvi	11	67
provide for a local option liquor law.....	xvi	20	68
provide for the payment of teachers under former laws.....	xvi	36	71
make laws to protect laborers against default of contractors.....	xvi	35	71
Legislature—Requirements:			
shall enact laws to facilitate remedy by <i>habeas</i> <i>corpus</i> .....	i	12	5
shall regulate and maintain purity and efficiency of trial by jury.....	i	15	6
shall have control of all privileges and franchises granted by it.....	i	17	6
shall regulate the wearing of arms.....	i	23	7

Legislature—Requirements:	Art.	Sec.	Page.
may alone exercise the power of suspending laws..	i	28	7
shall meet biennially.....	iii	5	9
shall apportion State into Senatorial and Representative districts after each decennial census...	iii	28	13
shall enact laws necessary to carry provisions of Constitution into effect.....	iii	42	15
shall provide for compensation of officers.....	iii	44	16
shall provide for change of venue.....	iii	45	16
shall provide against lotteries, lottery tickets, gift enterprises, and evasions thereof.....	iii	47	16
may raise revenue by taxation for the administration of government, including purposes enumerated.....	iii	48	17
may grant aid in public calamity.....	iii	51	18
shall hold its sessions at the city of Austin.....	iii	58	20
shall determine contested elections in joint session.	iv	3	21
shall pass laws facilitating investigation of breaches of trust, and providing for suspension on cause shown.....	iv	25	28
may establish Criminal District Courts in certain cities.....	v	1	29
may increase or diminish judicial districts.....	v	7	31
may authorize the holding of special terms of District Courts, or more than two terms. ....	v	7	32
may provide for holding District Courts when judge absent, disabled or disqualified.....	v	7	32
may provide for the election of District Attorneys and their compensation, with salary of \$500 .....	v	21	39
to change jurisdiction of County Courts, and conform jurisdiction of other courts.....	v	22	39
prescribe duties, perquisites and fees of sheriff....	v	23	39
provide for maintenance and support of public schools.....	vii	1	42
shall provide for separate schools for white and colored.....	vii	7	44
shall provide for sale of Asylum lands.....	vii	9	44
shall establish "The University of Texas".....	vii	10	44
shall provide for the prompt collection of debts due for University lands heretofore sold.....	vii	12	45
may establish college or branch University for the colored.....	vii	14	46
may sell the one million acres of land appropriated by the Constitution to the University and branches .....	vii	15	46
may impose poll, occupation and income taxes....	viii	1	46
may exempt designated property.....	viii	2	47
may provide for sale of lands of delinquent taxpayers.....	viii	15	50
by two-thirds vote may authorize taxes of non-residents to be paid at Comptroller's office.....	viii	11	49
the enumeration of subjects of taxation shall not deprive Legislature of levying taxes on other subjects .....	viii	17	50
shall provide for equalizing valuations of property taxed, and the classification of lands.....	viii	18	50
have power to create counties, subject to prescribed provisions .....	ix	1	50

Legislature—Requirements:	Art.	Sec.	Page.
shall pass laws regulating the removal of county seats, in accordance with provisions.....	ix	2	51
shall pass laws regulating railroad companies, preventing abuses, discrimination and extortion ...	x	1	52
shall pass laws establishing fares and freights on railroads .....	x	1	52
shall pass laws requiring railroad companies to have an office in this State, and comply with Constitutional provisions.....	x	3	52
may charter cities of more than 10,000 population by special acts.....	xi	5	55
may aid counties and cities on Gulf coast to build sea walls or breakwaters by donations of land...	xi	8	56
may constitute city or town a separate school district.....	xi	10	56
may create private corporations by general laws...	xii	2	57
shall always keep control of franchises granted by it.....	xii	3	57
shall always have right to annul, modify or repeal right to demand freights, fares, tolls or wharfage .....	xii	5	57
shall provide a method for determining what lands have been forfeited....	xiii	1	58
shall pass laws for detection and conviction of forgers of land titles.....	xiii	6	60
shall make Land Office self-sustaining, and may establish subordinate offices.....	xiv	1	60
may grant land to railway companies, upon prescribed conditions by general laws.....	xiv	3	61
shall provide by law for trial and removal from office where Constitution makes no provision....	xv	7	64
shall make laws disfranchising persons convicted of bribery, perjury, forgery and other high crimes .....	xvi	2	65
shall provide for commutation of fines to manual labor.....	xvi	3	66
shall provide for deductions from salary, in case of neglect of official duty.....	xvi	10	67
shall pass laws providing for arbitration.....	xvi	13	67
shall pass laws more clearly defining the rights of the wife, and providing for the registration of her separate property. ....	xvi	15	67
shall prescribe the qualifications of grand and petit jurors.....	xvi	19	68
shall have power to pass local fence laws .....	xvi	22	69
shall have power to pass laws for the regulation of live stock, inspection of cattle, stock and hides, and regulation of brands.....	xvi	23	69
to provide for laying out and working public roads	xvi	24	69
to define and punish barratry .....	xvi	29	70
to establish board of health and vital statistics....	xvi	32	70
to authorize the Governor to sell or lease to the United States lands for forts, barracks and military stations.....	xvi	34	70
to provide for the speedy enforcement of mechanics' liens.....	xvi	37	71
may provide for the office of Commissioner of Insurance, Statistics and History.....	xvi	38	71



Legislature—Requirements:	Art.	Sec.	Page.
may make appropriations for preserving memorials of history of Texas.....	xvi	39	71
may establish inebriate asylum .....	xvi	42	72
shall prescribe duties and provide for County Treasurer and County Surveyor .....	xvi	44	73
shall provide for collecting and keeping records and documents relating to history of Texas.....	xvi	45	73
shall provide for organizing militia.....	xvi	46	73
shall exempt from forced sale portions of personal property of heads of families.....	xvi	49	73
shall provide for indigent lunatics. ....	xvi	54	75
may provide annual pensions for indigent soldiers and signers.....	xvi	55	75
Legislature—Limitations:			
only special business at special sessions.....	iii	40	15
when shall not grant extra compensation.....	iii	44	16
no appropriation unless in pursuance of pre-existing law.....	iii	44	16
nor employ unless authorized by pre-existing law..	iii	44	16
shall not levy taxes, except for revenue.....	iii	48	16
purposes for which revenue may be raised enumerated.....	iii	48	17
no power to give or lend, or authorizing the giving or lending of the State credit for any purpose...	iii	50	17
no power to grant public money to individuals or corporations .....	iii	51	18
no power to grant money for immigration.....	xv	56	75
no power to authorize municipal corporations to aid or become stockholders in private corporations .....	iii	52	18
no power to grant, or authorize the granting of extra compensation.....	iii	53	18
no power to release State's liens.....	iii	54	18
no power to release indebtedness to State or corporation.....	iii	55	18
no power to pass local or special laws authorizing subjects enumerated.....	iii	56	19
nor any other local or special law where general law applicable.....	iii	56	20
no power to grant relief to purchasers of land of public school fund.....	vii	4	42
no power to appropriate public school fund to any other purpose.....	vii	5	43
no power to grant relief to purchasers of University lands.....	vii	12	45
no power to relieve the purchasers of the one million acres of University land....	vii	15	46
no power to exempt other than the designated property from taxation .....	viii	2	47
no power to surrender the taxes for which corporations may be liable .....	viii	4	47
no power to make appropriations for longer term than two years; exception—First Legislature...	viii	6	47
no power to borrow or divert special fund.....	viii	7	48
no power to release taxes due, except in case of public calamity.....	viii	10	48

	Art.	Sec.	Page.
Legislature—Limitations:			
no power to exempt the property of railway companies from execution.....	x	4	53
no power to authorize construction of street railway without consent of the municipal corporation.....	x	7	54
no power to charter cities and towns of less than 10,000 population by special law.....	xi	4	55
no power to grant lands to railway companies, except upon prescribed conditions, nor by special law.....	xiv	3	61
no power to make appropriation for private or individual purposes.....	xvi	6	66
no power to issue "Treasury warrants" or "Treasury notes".....	xvi	7	66
Legislative Department:			
a branch of the government.....	ii	1	8
style of.....	iii	1	8
Legitimation:			
no special law, authorizing.....	iii	56	19
Libels.....	i	8	5
Liberty of conscience.....	i	6	4
Liberty of speech, press and opinion.....	i	8	4
Liens:			
of mechanics and artizans.....	xvi	37	71
for taxes.....	viii	16	50
State, shall not be released or alienated.....	iii	53	18
no special legislation upon the subject of.....	iii	56	19
Lieutenant Governor:			
an officer of Executive Department.....	iv	1	21
term of office, powers and duties.....	iv	16	25
President of the Senate.....	iv	17	26
impeachment of.....	xv	2	63
Liquor Law:			
local option, shall be enacted.....	xvi	20	68
Live Stock:			
			(See "Stock Laws"—"Special Laws.")
Local Laws:			
			(See "Laws Local"—"Legislature"—"Special Laws.")
Lunatics and Idiots:			
shall not vote.....	vi	1	40
County Court has jurisdiction of.....	v	16	36
Legislature shall make provision for.....	xvi	54	75
asylum.....	vii	9	4
Mandamus:			
writs of, may be issued by the several courts.			(See "Courts.")
Mechanics' Lien:			
Legislature to provide by law for speedy mode of enforcement.....	xvi	37	71
Medicine, Practice of:			
qualifications for, may be prescribed.....	xvi	31	70
malpractice punished,.....	xvi	31	70
no preference to any school of medicine.....	xvi	31	70

	Art.	Sec.	Page.
Mexican and Spanish land titles:			
see Art. xiii, sections 1 to 7.....	xiii.....		58
Mileage:			
going and returning, five dollars for every twenty-five miles.....	iii	24	12
Comptroller to keep table of distances.....	iii	24	12
Military Authority:			
subordinate to civil.....	i	24	7
Governor, commander-in-chief of forces.....	iv	7	22
Militia:			
Governor may call out to execute law... ..	iv	7	22
Legislature to provide for organization.....	xvi	46	73
Mines and Minerals:			
released by the State to owners of land.....	xiv	7	62
Ministry:			
no man compelled to support against his consent..	i	6	4
Minors:			
to be emancipated only under general laws.....	iii	56	20
no local or special laws affecting estate of ... ..	iii	56	19
shall not vote.....	vi	1	40
Money:			
“warrants, Treasury”, and “Treasury notes” not to issue or circulate as.....	xvi	7	66
none shall be appropriated for sects, societies or institutions.....	i	7	4
not to be drawn but in pursuance of specific appropriations.....	viii	6	47
no appropriations longer than two years.....	viii	6	47
not to be appropriated for immigration bureau, or purposes.....	xvi	56	75
public money statements to be published annually.	xvi	16	66
no appropriation for private or individual purposes.....	xvi	6	66
Monopolies and Perpetuities:			
forbidden.....	i	26	7
Municipal Corporations:			
the several counties recognized as.....	xi	1	54
county buildings, institutions, roads, etc., to be provided for by law.....	xi	2	54
shall not aid private corporations.....	xi	3	54
what cities and towns shall not be specially chartered	xi	4	55
power to tax and restrictions.....	xi	4	55
taxes to be collected in money only.....	xi	4	55
what cities and towns may be specially chartered..	xi	5	55
restrictions on taxing power.....	xi	5	55
restrictions on creating debt.....	xi	5	55
may levy tax.....	xi	6	55
regulations as to taxes.....	xi	6	55
counties and cities on Gulf of Mexico may tax to construct sea walls.....	xi	7	55
regulations as to such tax.....	xi	7	56
restrictions upon contracting debts.....	xi	7	56
counties, cities and towns on Gulf of Mexico may have State aid.....	xi	8	56



	Art.	Sec.	Page.
Municipal Corporations.			
public property of, exempt from forced sale and taxation.....	xi	9	56
a city or town may be made separate school district.....	xi	10	56
counties may provide poor houses.....	xvi	8	66
railway property within, liable to taxation.....	viii	5	47
Neglect:			
of duty by officers, Legislature to provide for deductions from salaries....	xvi	10	67
Negligence:			
causing death, parties liable in civil action.....	xvi	26	70
Notaries Public:			
Governor to appoint convenient number.....	iv	26	28
Notice:			
of application for special or local law must be published for thirty days .....	iii	57	20
Notes—Treasury:			
Legislature not authorized to issue.....	xvi	7	66
O.			
OATH:			
of office prescribed.....	xvi	1	65
Oaths and Affirmations:			
to be taken under pains and penalties of perjury ..	i	5	4
to be administered in manner most binding... ..	i	5	4
Occupation Tax:			
may be levied and imposed.....	viii	1	46
Officers:			
holding lucrative office not eligible to the Legislature .....	iii	19	11
lucrative office, exceptions enumerated.....	xvi	40	72
defaulting and not discharged, not eligible to Legislature .....	iii	20	11
duration of office shall never exceed two years....	xvi	30	70
officers prohibited from holding more than one....	xvi	40	72
accounting officers not to pay party holding any other office.....	xvi	33	70
shall reside within the State, district and county..	xvi	14	67
shall continue until successor is qualified.....	xvi	17	68
keep accounts, and give information under oath...	iv	24	28
Orders, Resolutions, etc.:			
shall be presented to the Governor.....	iv	15	25
Outlawry.....	i	20	6
P.			
PARDONS:			
may be granted by the Governor when.....	iv	11	23
Paupers:			
public shall not vote.....	vi	1	40
Pensions:			
when and to whom may be granted.....	xvi	55	75
Per diem and Mileage:			
of members of the Legislature.....	iii	24	12

	Art.	Sec.	Page.
Perjury:			
conviction of, laws shall be made to disfranchise..	xvi	2	65
oaths and affirmations taken under pains and pen- alties of .....	i	5	4
Perpetuities:			
not allowed.....	i	26	7
Personal Equality:.....	i	3	1
Petition:			
right of.....	i	27	7
Physicians:			
qualifications of, may be prescribed.....	xvi	31	70
malpractice of, punished.....	xvi	31	70
no preference to any schools of medicine.....	xvi	31	70
Poll Tax:			
may be imposed.....	viii	1	46
none for the payment of municipal debts.....	vi	3	41
Polls:			
in election precincts.....	vi	2	41
Poor Houses:			
shall be provided by general law.....	xi	2	54
each county may provide.....	xvi	8	66
Powers of Government:			
divided into three departments.....	ii	1	8
powers of each, how exercised... ..	ii	1	8
legislative.....	ii	1	8
executive.....	ii	1	8
judicial.....	ii	1	8
Precincts, Commissioners':			
county divided into four.....	v	18	37
present county court shall divide.....	v	18	37
Precincts, Justices':			
county divided into not less than four nor more than eight.....	v	18	37
present county court shall divide.....	v	18	37
Precincts, Election:			
residents of, shall vote in .....	vi	2	41
President of Senate:			
<i>pro tem.</i> , shall be elected when.....	iii	9	9
Lieutenant-Governor shall be.....	iv	16	25
Presiding Officer:			
of each House shall sign bills in presence of the House .....	iii	38	15
Press:			
liberty of the. ....	i	8	4
Primogeniture:			
no law of shall be made.....	i	26	7
Prisoners:			
bailable when, and how.....	i	11	5
Printing and stationery:			
shall be let out by contract.....	xvi	21	68
Privilege:			
of members in debate .....	iii	21	12
from arrest.....	iii	14	10
of voters from arrest.....	vi	5	42
exclusive, no man entitled to.....	i	3	1

	Art.	Sec.	Page.
Privileges and exemption:			
from public duty, only by general law. . . . .	xvi	43	72
Process—Compulsory:			
prisoners shall have for witnesses. . . . .	i	10	5
Process and Writs:			
issued, not affected by this Constitution. . . . .	xvi	53	75
style of prescribed. . . . .	v	12	34
Probate Court:			
County Court established as a . . . . .	v	16	36
Public Calamity:			
relief may be granted in case of . . . . .	viii	10	48
Public Highways:			
railroads declared to be . . . . .	x	2	52
Public Lands and Land Office. . . . .	xiv		60
			(See "Land and Land Office.")
Public Roads:			
Legislature to make provision for. . . . .	xvi	24	69
Public Schools:			
Legislature to provide for payment of teachers prior to 1873 . . . . .	xvi	36	71
teachers in, prior to 1876, to be paid by school districts. . . . .	xvi	36	71
Public Purpose:			
taxes be collected only for . . . . .	viii	3	47
Public Use:			
property taken for, compensation to be made . . . . .	i	17	6
<b>Q.</b>			
QUORUM:			
two-thirds of each House. . . . .	iii	10	10
<b>R.</b>			
Railroads:			
may connect at State line with other road. . . . .	x	1	52
intersect, connect and cross other roads. . . . .	x	1	52
to receive and carry the passengers, tonnage and cars of other roads, without delay or discrimina- tion. . . . .	x	1	52
declared public highways. . . . .	x	2	52
declared common carriers. . . . .	x	2	52
laws to be passed concerning freights and tariffs, establishing maximum charges, etc. . . . .	x	2	52
laws to be enforced by adequate penalties. . . . .	x	2	52
maintain public office in this State . . . . .	x	3	52
where transfers of stock shall be made. . . . .	x	3	52
transfer books and other records to be kept for inspection by stockholders. . . . .	x	3	52
directors to hold one annual meeting. . . . .	x	3	52
thirty days notice of meeting to be given. . . . .	x	3	52
to report under oath to Comptroller. . . . .	x	3	52
rolling stock and movables, personal property. . . . .	x	4	52
real and personal property liable to execution. . . . .	x	4	52
Legislature shall not exempt from execution. . . . .	x	4	52



Railroads:	Art.	Sec.	Page.
no consolidation by lease or otherwise with parallel or competing roads. . . . .	x	5	53
officers, not to act as officers of competing roads. . .	x	5	53
shall not consolidate with foreign company. . . . .	x	6	53
street railroads must have consent of municipal corporations. . . . .	x	7	54
no relief to be granted, except on condition of acceptance of Constitution. . . . .	x	8	54
must pass through if within three miles of county seat, if right of way through is granted. . . . .	x	9	54
State's lien on not to be released or alienated. . . . .	iii	54	18
no special charters incorporating. . . . .	iii	56	19
property of, to be assessed and taxed. . . . .	viii	8	48
when taxes to be collected. . . . .	viii	8	48
rolling stock assessed in gross, and where. . . . .	viii	8	48
tax, collected for counties, to be apportioned by Comptroller. . . . .	viii	8	48
lands granted to, only upon conditions. . . . .	xiv	3	61
granted only by general law. . . . .	xiv	3	61
Rebatelements, Drawbacks, etc.:			
prohibited. . . . .	xvi	25	69
Registration of Voters:			
prohibited. . . . .	vi	4	42
Relief from Legislature Denied:			
purchasers of school lands. . . . .	vii	4	42
purchasers of University lands. . . . .	vii	12	45
State liens to be enforced according to original terms. . . . .	iii	54	18
to railway companies, except on condition of acceptance of provisions of Constitution. . . . .	x	8	54
University lands hereafter sold, no relief to be granted purchasers. . . . .	vii	15	46
Religious Sects and Societies:			
no preference to be given by law to. . . . .	i	6	4
laws for the protection of, to be passed. . . . .	i	6	4
no appropriation to be made for. . . . .	i	7	4
Religious Test:			
as a qualification for office, prohibited. . . . .	i	4	4
in giving evidence. . . . .	i	5	4
Remedy:			
by due course of law. . . . .	i	13	6
Removals from Office:			
who by impeachment. . . . .	xv	2	63
who by Supreme Court. . . . .	xv	6	63
who by address. . . . .	xv	8	64
who by District Courts. . . . .	v	24	39
Clerks—			
Supreme Court. . . . .	v	4	30
Court of Appeals. . . . .	v	6	31
District Court, by information on indictment. . . . .	v	9	33
Legislature to provide for. . . . .	xv	7	64
Representatives, House of, and Members:			
(See "House and Senate," and "Senate and House.")			
a branch of the Legislature. . . . .	iii	1	8
not less than ninety-three nor more than one hundred and fifty. . . . .	iii	2	8

Representatives, House of, and Members :	Art.	Sec.	Page.
elected for two years from date of election.....	iii	4	9
qualifications prescribed.....	iii	7	9
shall organize, temporarily and elect speaker.....	iii	9	9
to be apportioned, and how.....	iii	26	13
after each decennial census.....	iii	28	13
apportioned by ordinance until next census.....	iii	28	13
revenue bills must originate in.....	iii	33	14
power of impeachment vested in.....	xv	1	63
Representative Districts:			
how apportioned and when.....	iii	26	13
apportioned by ordinance until next decennial census.....	iii	28	13
Reprieves:			
granted by Governor when.....	iv	11	23
Republican form of Government:			
Texas pledged to preservation of.....	i	2	1
Residence:			
all civil officers shall reside in State.....	xvi	14	67
in district and county.....	xvi	14	67
of Governor.....	iv	13	24
not forfeited by absence on public business.....	xvi	9	66
Resolutions:			
what shall go to Governor for approval.....	iv	15	25
Retroactive Laws:			
shall not be made.....	i	16	6
Returns of Election:			
of executive officers, directed to Secretary of State.	iv	3	21
to be delivered to speaker.....	iv	3	21
to be opened in presence of both Houses.....	iv	3	21
result to be declared by speaker....	iv	3	21
Returning Officer:			
to order election for members of the Legislature, when.....	iii	13	10
Revenue:			
raised for what purposes.....	iii	48	16
Revenue Bills:			
must originate in House.....	iii	33	14
Revision of Laws:			
first Legislature to provide for.....	iii	43	16
may be made every ten years.....	iii	43	16
Right of Action:			
for homicide.....	xvi	26	70
Rights of Property and Rights of Action:			
existing, not affected by this Constitution.....	xvi	18	68
Right of Trial by Jury:			
shall remain inviolate.....	i	15	6
Right of Assembly.....	i	27	7
Right of Conscience.....	i	6	4
Right of Petition.....	i	27	7

Roads and Bridges:	Art.	Sec.	Page.
shall be provided for by general law.....	xi	2	54
provisions to be made for by Legislature .....	xvi	24	69
convict labor to be utilized on.....	xvi	24	69
no special laws relating to .....	iii	56	19
no special laws vacating.....	iii	56	19
Rules of Order:			
each House to determine.....	iii	11	10
S.			
SALARIES:			
(See "Compensation.")			
Seal of State:			
to be kept by the Secretary of State .....	iv	19	26
all commissions shall be sealed with.....	iv	20	26
Searches and Seizures:			
the people secured from unreasonable.....	i	9	5
warrant for.....	i	9	5
Seat of Government:			
Austin declared to be.....	iii	58	20
Governor shall reside at.....	iv	13	24
Legislature shall hold its sessions at.....	iii	58	20
School Districts:			
city or town may be a separate .....	xi	10	56
Legislature to provide for payment of amount due teachers by school districts.....	xvi	36	71
School Funds and Lands:			
what shall constitute perpetual.....	vii	2	42
not more than one-fourth of general revenue.....	vii	3	42
a poll tax of one dollar.....	vii	3	42
lands set apart to shall be sold.....	vii	4	42
no relief to purchasers of lands.....	vii	4	42
to be invested by Board of Education.....	vii	4	42
how invested.....	vii	4	43
principal of all bonds shall be permanent.....	vii	5	43
interest on bonds the available.....	vii	5	43
no appropriation of permanent or available shall be made to any other purpose.....	vii	5	43
or for sectarian schools .....	vii	5	43
the available to be distributed to counties.....	vii	5	43
concerning county school lands.....	vii	6	43
Board of Education to distribute funds.....	vii	8	44
Schools—Separate:			
to be provided for white and colored.....	vii	7	44
Schools of Medicine:			
no preference to any shall be given in prescribing qualifications of practitioners of medicine.....	xvi	31	70
Seamen, mariners and soldiers not to vote.....	vi	1	40
Secretary of State:			
an officer of executive department.....	iv	1	21
custodian of seal of State.....	iv	19	26
sign commissions.....	iv	20	27
appointed by Governor.....	iv	21	27
duties prescribed.....	iv	21	27
compensation \$2000.....	iv	21	28
returns of elections to be directed to.....	iv	3	21



	Art.	Sec.	Page.
Sects, or Religious Societies:			
no appropriation for.....	i	7	4
no preference shall ever be given to.....	i	6	4
Seizures and Searches:			
the people secured from unreasonable.....	i	9	5
warrant for.....	i	9	5
Senate and House:			
provisions common to both:—			
qualification and election, each the judge.....	iii	8	9
quorum, two-thirds of each.....	iii	10	10
less may compel attendance.....	iii	10	10
determine rules of proceedings of each.....	iii	11	10
may punish members.....	iii	11	10
expulsion, but not a second, for same offense.....	iii	11	10
shall keep and publish journal.....	iii	12	10
yeas and nays, three may demand.....	iii	12	10
vacancies provided for.....	iii	13	10
punish persons not members.....	iii	15	10
open sessions, except Senate in executive.....	iii	16	11
adjournments not longer than three days.....	iii	17	11
no adjournment to other place without concur-			
rence.....	iii	17	11
elect their own officers.....	iii	9	9
members privileged from arrest.....	iii	14	11
ineligible to other office.....	iii	18	11
other officers ineligible as members.....	iii	19	11
officers charged with public money ineligible until			
discharged.....	iii	20	11
privileged in debate.....	iii	21	12
personal or private interest to be disclosed, and			
shall not vote.....	iii	22	12
removal from district vacates office.....	iii	23	12
compensation, per diem and mileage.....	iii	24	12
members elected at general election to be regulated			
by law.....	iii	27	13
apportionment after each census to be made.....	iii	28	13
apportioned by ordinance until next census.....	iii	28	13
oath of, prescribed.....	xvi	1	65
bribery of.....	xvi	41	72
Senate and Senators:—(See “Senate and House.”)			
to consist of thirty-one Senators.....	iii	2	8
chosen for four years.....	iii	3	8
new, to be chosen after every apportionment.....	iii	3	8
divided into two classes.....	iii	3	8
first class two, second class four years.....	iii	3	8
qualifications for.....	iii	6	9
shall choose president <i>pro tem.</i> at beginning and			
close of each term.....	iii	9	9
executive session.....	iii	16	11
Senate as a court of impeachment.....	xv	8	63
Lieutenant Governor president of.....	iv	16	25
advice and consent of <i>two-thirds</i> to Governor’s			
appointments to fill vacancies.....	iv	12	23
advice and consent of to appointment of Secretary			
of State.....	iv	21	27

Senate and Senators:	Art.	Sec.	Page.
advice and consent of <i>two-thirds</i> to appointment of notaries public. ....	iv	26	27
advice and consent of to pardons for treason....	iv	11	23
Senatorial Districts:			
no single county entitled to more than one.....	iii	25	13
apportionment to be made first session after every decennial census.....	iii	28	13
Sentence.			
Governor may respite.....	iv	11	23
Separate Property of Wife:			
what shall be.....	xvi	15	67
rights of the wife to, to be more clearly defined...	xvi	15	67
laws shall be passed for registration of.....	xvi	15	68
Sessions of Legislature:			
biennial.....	iii	5	9
may be convened by Governor.....	iii	5	9
special sessions not longer than thirty days.....	iii	40	15
designated subjects only to considered.....	iii	40	15
extraordinary occasions, may be convened at capital or elsewhere.....	iv	8	22
proclamation shall state purpose.....	iv	8	22
Sheriffs:			
election, term, duties, perquisites and fees.....	v	23	39
to collect the taxes.....	viii	16	50
in counties with 10,000 inhabitants, tax collector elected.....	viii	16	50
vacancy may be filled by County Commissioner's court.....	v	23	39
Soldiers:			
where not to be quartered.....	i	25	7
Soldiers, United States:			
not allowed to vote.....	xi	1	40
Spanish and Mexican Land Titles:			
provisions concerning .....	xiii	1—7	58
Speaker of the House:			
how elected.....	iii	9	9
when and where shall open and publish election returns .....	iv	3	21
Special Funds:			
shall not be diverted.....	viii	7	48
Special Laws:			
what shall not be passed, enumerated.....	iii	56	19
shall not be made, when general laws can be made applicable.....	iii	56	19
may be passed for preservation of fish and game... thirty days' notice of intended application required to be published.....	iii	56	20
local option liquor law shall be enacted.....	iii	57	20
stock law may be enacted.....	xvi	20	68
to change jurisdiction of County Courts.....	xvi	23	69
to change jurisdiction of County Courts.....	v	2	39
may charter city of over 10,000 inhabitants.....	xi	5	55
to aid counties and cities on Gulf coast to build sea walls, breakwaters, etc.....	xi	8	56

	Art.	Sec.	Page.
Special Sessions of Legislature:			
(See "Sessions of Legislature.")			
Speech and Opinion:			
liberty of.....	i	8	4
State Government:			
departments of.....	ii	1	8
Stationery, Printing, etc.:			
shall be furnished and performed under contract..	xvi	21	68
Statistics, Vital, and Health:			
Legislature may establish board of .....	xvi	32	70
Stock raisers, stock laws, etc.....	xvi	23	69
Streets:			
vacating, no special law for.....	iii	19	56
Street Railways:			
not to be constructed without consent of municipal authorities.....	x	8	54
Style:			
of laws, "Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas".....	iii	29	13
of Legislature, "The Legislature of the State of Texas" .....	iii	1	8
of process, "The State of Texas".....	v	12	34
Subsidies:			
State, county and municipal aid to private individuals and corporations forbidden.....	iii	51	18
same subject.....	iii	52	18
same subject.....	xi	3	54
Suffrage:			
who shall not vote.....	vi	1	40
who are voters.....	vi	2	41
who are voters in municipal corporations.....	vi	3	41
duelling, effect of, on right of.....	xvi	4	66
laws to be made to exclude the convicted of bribery, perjury, forgery, and other high crimes.	xvi	2	65
the right of, to be protected by law.....	xvi	2	65
right of, not forfeited by absence on business.....	xvi	9	66
Suicide:			
property of, shall descend as in other cases.....	i	21	7
Supreme Being:			
unbelief in, disqualifies from holding office.....	i	4	4
Supreme Court:			
(See "Courts, Supreme.")			

## T.

## TAXATION AND TAXES:

concerning—equality and uniformity.			
subjects of taxation.			
valuation.			
poll tax.			
occupation taxes.			
income taxes.....	viii	1	46
no occupation tax on agricultural or mechanical pursuits .....	viii	1	46
\$250 worth of furniture of a family exempt.....	viii	1	46
occupation tax levied by municipal corporations limited to one-half of State tax.....	viii	1	46



Taxation and Taxes:	Art.	Sec.	Page.
equality and uniformity of occupation tax.....	viii	2	47
Legislature may exempt:—			
property used for public purposes.			
property used for worship.			
cemeteries not for private profit.			
building for school purposes.			
furniture of schools.			
institutions for charity.....	viii	2	47
other exemptions void.....	viii	2	47
levied and collected only for public purposes.....	viii	3	47
power to corporations never to be suspended or surrendered by contract or grant.....	viii	4	47
of municipal taxation of railroad property.....	viii	5	47
back taxes may be collected by municipal authority.....	viii	5	47
of taxation on railway property:—			
may be assessed and collected in counties. where fixtures and road bed situated.			
rolling stock in county of principal office.			
apportioned among counties, and how.....	viii	8	48
shall never exceed fifty cents on the \$100, ex- clusive of tax to pay public debt.....	viii	9	48
counties, cities and towns limited to half of State tax.....	viii	9	48
except for payment of debts already incurred.....	viii	9	48
tax for erection of public building limited to fifty cents on the \$100.....	viii	9	48
payment of taxes for State and county purposes not to be released, except in case of public calamity.	viii	10	48
taxes to be assessed and paid in the county where property is situated.....	viii	11	49
non-residents of counties, when may be authorized to pay at Comptroller's office.....	viii	11	49
officer shall assess unrendered property.....	viii	11	49
on property in unorganized county, where assessed and collected.....	viii	12	49
concerning the enforcement of the payment of....	viii	13	49
assessor and collector of taxes, election, term and duties.....	viii	14	49
assessments shall be a lien, and property liable to seizure and sale.....	viii	15	50
sheriff shall be collector in counties of less than 10,000 inhabitants.....	viii	16	50
over 10,000 inhabitants, collector elected.....	viii	16	50
subjects specified, not to exclude right to tax other subjects and objects not enumerated.....	viii	17	50
equalization of value by County Commissioners' Court, to be provided for by Legislature.....	viii	18	50
classification of lands according to the value in the several counties also to be provided for.....	viii	18	50
taxes only to be levied and collected for purposes enumerated.....	iii	48	17
concerning taxing power in cities of over 10,000 inhabitants, and limitations thereon.....	xi	5	55
concerning taxing power in cities of under 10,000 inhabitants, and limitations thereon.....	xi	4	55

Taxation and Taxes:	Art.	Sec.	Page.
concerning levy, assessment and collection of taxes by counties, cities and towns, to pay interest and provide sinking fund for payment of indebtedness.....	xi	6	55
concerning taxes levied by counties, cities and towns for sea walls and breakwaters.....	xi	7	56
property of counties, cities and towns for public purposes, exempt from taxation.....	xi	9	56
concerning the levy and collection of taxes by city authorities for school purposes.....	xi	10	57
<b>Tests:</b>			
religious, not required.....	i	4	4
acknowledging existence of Supreme Being, the only.....	i	4	4
<b>Titles, Land—(See “Mexican and Spanish”).</b> .....	xiii	.....	58
emanated, or hereafter emanating, from the State shall be registered in General Land Office.....	xiv	1	60
certificates not to be put upon titled lands.....	xiv	2	61
<b>Transported:</b>			
out of the State for crime, no one shall be.....	i	20	6
<b>Treason:</b>			
defined, and testimony necessary to convict.....	i	22	7
Governor, with advice and consent of Senate, may grant pardon.....	iv	11	23
to this end, may respite sentence.....	iv	11	23
<b>Treasurer:</b>			
an officer of executive department.....	iv	1	21
elected, term, salary, and duties.....	iv	23	28
removed by impeachment.....	xv	2	63
<b>“Treasury Notes and Warrants:”</b>			
not to be issued to circulate as money.....	xvi	7	66
<b>Trial:</b>			
no second, for same offense, after verdict... ..	i	14	6
by jury, right to, inviolate.....	i	15	6
jury must be demanded, and fee paid.....	v	10	33
nine jurors concurring, may render verdict.....	v	13	34
in district court, twelve compose jury.....	v	13	34
in county court, six.....	v	17	37

## U.

### UNIVERSITY, AND ITS FUND AND LANDS:

“The University of Texas”.....	vii	10	44
concerning its establishment and support.....	vii	10	44
its funds and lands.....	vii	10	44
provisions relating thereto.....	vii	10	44
concerning the sale of its lands.....	vii	12	45
“The Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas” made and constituted a branch.....	vii	13	45
forty thousand dollars to be appropriated at first session for its completion.....	vii	13	45
another branch for the colored may be established.	vii	14	46

	Art.	Sec.	Page.
University, and its Fund and Lands:			
no tax to be levied, no appropriation out of general revenue for erecting building.....	vii	14	46
one million additional acres of land set apart, with provisions for sale thereof.....	vii	15	46
Usury and Interest:			
provisions concerning.....	xvi	11	67

## V.

## VACANCIES:

in either House, writs of election to be issued by Governor—he failing, by returning officer.....	iii	13	10
concerning, in State and district officers.....	iii	23	12
in Supreme Court.....	v	2	29
in Court of Appeals.....	v	28	40
in District Court.....	v	28	40
in County Judges, filled by Com. Court.	v	28	40
in Justices of the Peace, by Commissioner's Court.....	v	28	40
in sheriff's office, by Commissioner's Court.....	v	23	39
Vagrants:			
Legislature shall enact effective laws concerning..	iii	46	61
Venue, Change of:			
Power vested in courts, Legislature to make provision for.....	iii	45	16
no special law for, shall be made.....	iii	56	19
Veterans, Texas:			
Pensions may be granted the indigent.....	xvi	55	75
Vested Rights;			
Existing by grant or statute, not divested.....	xiii	7	58
rights of property and of action, acquired under former Constitutions and laws, not divested....	xvi	18	68
all existing rights to remain as they were.....	xvi	18	68
Veto:			
provisions concerning the power.....	iv	14	24
Voters and Votes:			
(See "Suffrage.")			

## W.

Wages:			
current, for personal service, not subject to garnishment.....	xvi	28	70
Warrants, Treasury, and Notes:			
shall not be issued to circulate as money.....	xvi	7	66
Warrants to Search and Seize:			
shall not issue, without affidavit and description..	i	9	5
Wife's Separate Property:			
what shall be.....	xvi	15	67
rights of wife to, to be more clearly defined.....	xvi	15	67
laws shall be passed for registration of.....	xvi	15	68



Worship:	Art.	Sec.	Page.
declaration of rights as to.....	i	6	4
public worship to be protected by laws.....	i	6	4

## Y.

## YEAS AND NAYS:

three members may demand to be entered on journal.....	iii	12	10
to suspend reading of bill on three several days, four-fifths of the House required, and yeas and nays shall be entered on the journals.....	iii	32	14
yeas and nays on question of emergency as to necessity of law taking effect.....	iii	39	15





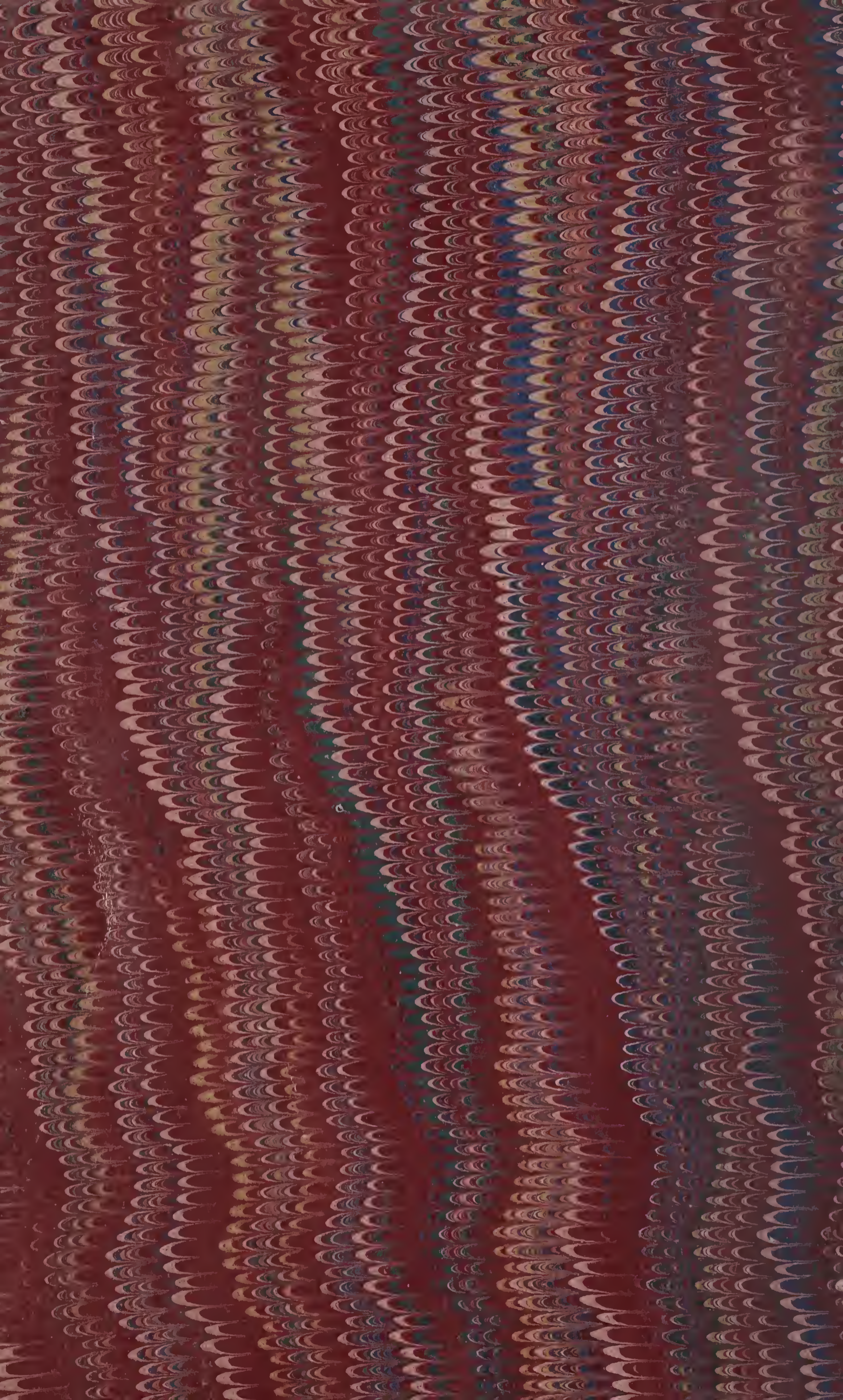




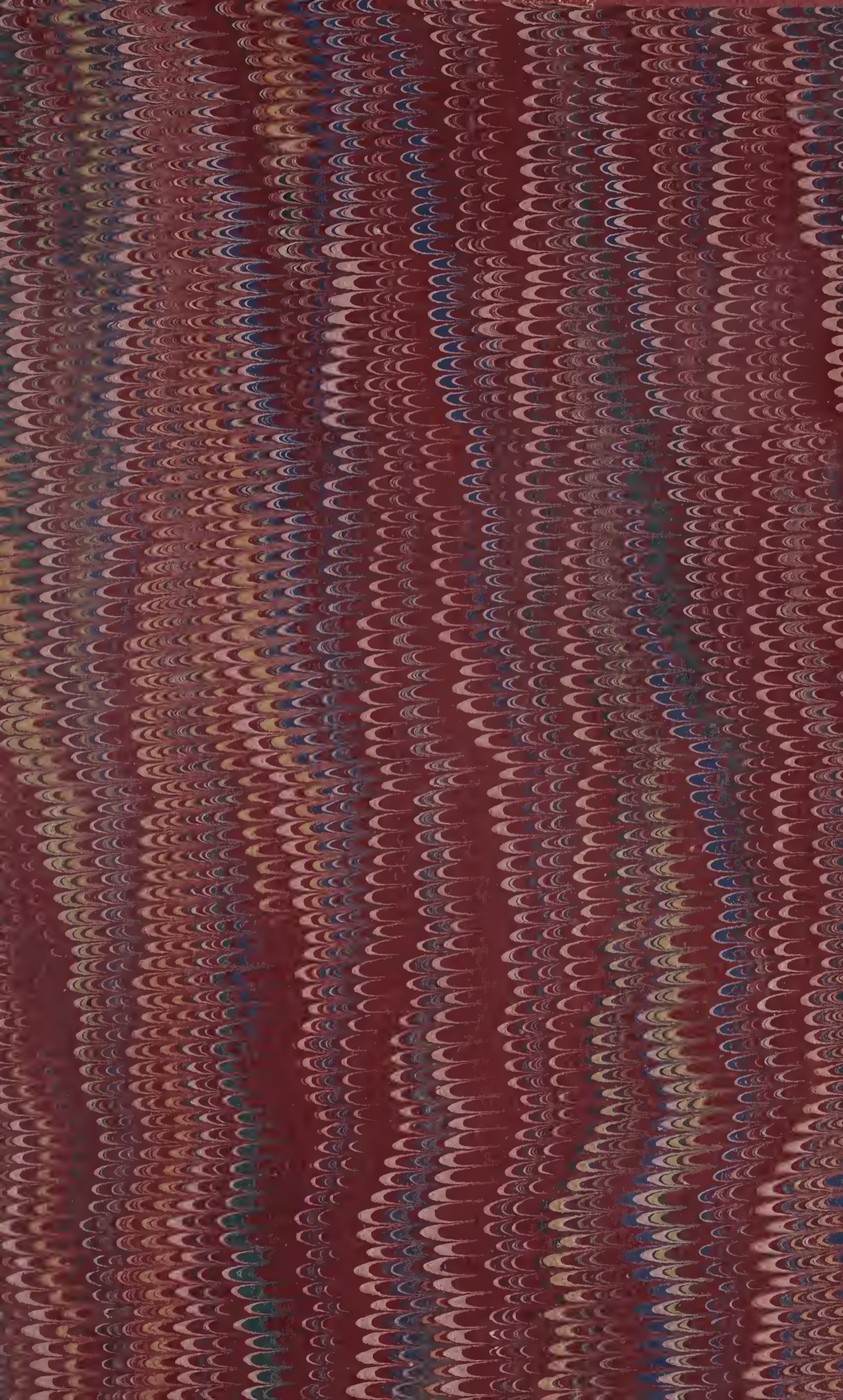














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