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### Report in the Allegan Journal

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Allegan Journal, February 7, 1859, p. 2.

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February 7, 1859

A report from Lansing in the Allegan Journal, p. 2, about the bill concerning the Holland Harbor in the Legislature. The bill, recommended by the committee, was "to provide for the drainage and reclamation of the swamp lands in townships number six north, of range 14 and 15 west, and to aid the township of Holland, in the improvement of the harbor at the mouth of North Black River in said township."

**ALLEGAN JOURNAL.**

Monday, February 7, 1859.

D. C. HENDERSON, Editor.

**REPUBLICAN STATE CONVENTION.**  
A Republican State Convention to nominate a candidate for Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the State, will be held at the City Hall, in the City of Detroit, on Wednesday, February 16th, 1859, at 11 o'clock A. M. The several counties will send three delegates for each representative to the Legislature, and every organized county having no representative will be entitled to one delegate.  
Dated Detroit, January 21, 1859.  
E. C. WALKER, J. W. TILLMAN,  
C. A. TOWNSEND, CHARLES UPSON,  
J. A. KERR, W. W. WOOLGASTON,  
J. C. WELLS, GEO. M. DEWEY,  
A. B. TURNER, T. M. FERRY,  
JAS. M. BIRNEY, WARREN INMAN,  
F. B. LOOMIS, F. C. BRAMAN.

**Cuba.**

The Senate of the United States has been amusing itself and flooding the country with buncombe speeches on the Cuba question. That no practical good can result from the debate is apparent. Spain refuses to part with the "gem of the Antilles," treats with scorn our proffered gold, and proclaims to the world that she will protect her treasure with the force of arms, and here one would think the matter would end. Viewed as a business transaction ordinary minds would so consider it. A tradesman who should endeavor to bribe or defraud another of possessions which he persistently refuses to part with, would be looked upon as a fool or knave. Yet men clothed with senatorial dignities, led on by the President are pursuing this identical course. It is a disgrace to the legislative ability of the country, and robs our rulers of the dignity and honor with which most minds are accustomed to invest them.—The country will reap no beneficial results from such a discussion, neither is such the design of either President or Senators.—But the total disregard of all principles of equity, the clinging, and slave propagandist spirit which has characterized the action of the Democratic party in the administration of domestic affairs, have rent the party into hostile clans, divided it with bitter feuds. Its leaders divine the handwriting upon the wall, and with the desperation of drowning men clutch at every straw, with the delusive hope that it will save them from destruction. There is no system of domestic policy upon which they can unite, and they are anxiously scanning the horizon of foreign affairs, en-

**From Lansing.**  
Editorial Correspondence of the Journal.  
LANSING, Jan. 31, 1859.

Since my last the bill for the extension of time for collection of taxes in Allegan has become a law, also a general law for the extension of the time for the collection of taxes throughout the State.  
The several Asylums and Public Institutions have been visited by Committees of the Legislature and reported in a good condition. Fair and reasonable appropriations will be made for the benefit of all these institutions.  
Mr. Bares, the Chairman of the Committee on State Affairs reported favorably upon the petition of the Hollanders for an appropriation of Swamp Lands for their Harbor at the Mouth of the North Black River. Below we present the report:

"The committee on State affairs, to whom was referred the petition of A. C. Van Raalte and 269 others, of the Holland Colony, praying for the construction of a Harbor in Ottawa county, have had the same under consideration, and respectfully report, that, in their opinion, no petitioners have presented more just claims to the attention and liberality of this Legislature, and the aid of the State, as a statement of their persevering enterprise and success will show.

The Holland Colony is located near the mouth of North Black River, on Lake Michigan. Its principal village is upon the shores of North Black Lake. This lake is five and a half miles long, varying in breadth from a mile to 820 feet, was separated from Lake Michigan by a tongue of sand of 580 feet, and will, when the improvement now being prosecuted by the indomitable Hollanders, form one of the largest and best harbors on Lake Michigan. The Colony numbers some 6,000 frugal, industrious and persevering settlers. Its first settlements were made in 1847. From that period to February, 1858, they have been encouraged by the hope and oft-broken promise that the General Government would make the improvements necessary to render their harbor useful to themselves and the commerce of the lake. Disappointed, but not disheartened—contemptuously abandoning the illusion, purposely imposed upon them by designing demagogues, to lure them to the support of National Administrations which have been faithless and perfidious to all the interests of the people and of commerce upon our western lakes

granted without cost to the State—that it is the duty of the Legislature to foster and encourage individual effort, in all such enterprises, in every constitutional way, and that the Hollanders are pre-eminently deserving all they ask, your committee report herewith, a bill for their benefit, recommend its passage, and ask to be discharged from the consideration of the subject."  
The report was accepted, the committee discharged, and the bill being  
A bill to provide for the drainage and reclamation of the swamp lands in townships number six north, of range 14 and 15 west, and to aid the township of Holland, in the improvement of the harbor at the mouth of North Black River in said township.  
Was read twice, laid on the table, and ordered printed.

The Bill for the organization of Muskegon County passed the House on Friday last by a constitutional majority of one. The vote stood: 41 yeas to 37 nays. A movement was made on Saturday to reconsider this vote, and to have the bill returned from the Senate. Lost 34 to 37. It is now considered that the bill will pass the Senate although there may be a break yet, and the Muskegonians be obliged to tarry with their Ottawa brethren yet a little longer. Messrs. N. H. Ferry, C. B. Albee, and Carleton have made a gallant struggle in behalf of the old county organization; so have Messrs. Merrill, Davis and Morris in behalf of the Muskegon interest.

A bill granting 640 acres of Swamp Lands to Mrs. H. D. Rogers of Saginaw, (a gallant lady who recently gave birth to four beautiful children—three girls and a boy) has been vetoed by Governor Wisner—who contends that this would be a perversion of the Swamp Land grant.  
A humorous report has been made by Senator Conger on the sufferings of your worthy Circuit Judge—H. F. Flaxing J. Littlejohn. There is no likelihood of the re-districting of the Circuits at this session. Judge L. must wait until the 9th District becomes a little more populous before any redress can be afforded him. I have no doubt that the complaints of Judge L. are just and consider the report made by the Judiciary Committee on the subject in bad taste.  
Senator Haydon will do what he can for the relief of Judge Littlejohn if any action is taken on the Senate bill for the re-districting of the State Judicial purposes.  
A bill is before the Senate for the elec-

the Senate. Muzzy of Berrien is acknowledged "Democratic" member, and 27 years of age. He was formerly an old Whig.

The rival contestants for humor in Senate are Conger and Penoyer; and beauty Pond and Porter. Our own actor Haydon is not behind any of them for sarcasm or wit.

As to the House Speaker Shaw of F. Co. has the reputation of being the best member of the Legislature. He is a native of Vermont, a lawyer by profession and is 40 years of age. Wendell of Muskegon is reported to be the best member of the House. He is a native Michigander by the way and is 36 years of age.

The nativities of the members of House are as follows: Connecticut, Ohio, 4; (Dr. Baldwin, who is 48 years old, is a Buck Eye;) New York, 37; Pennsylvania, 2; New Hampshire, 4; England (Brown of Oakland, Thomson of Genesee and Woolnough of Calhoun,) 3; Virginia, 2; Michigan, (Campau and Conover Wayne, Mulholland of Monroe, Sam Smith of St. Clair, Starkweather of Washtenaw and Wendell of Mackinac,) 6; Ireland (Capt. Dalton of Ottawa, McMahon of Washtenaw, and Capt. McDermott of Wayne,) 3; Massachusetts, 3; Germany (Gies of Wayne,) 1; Scotland, (Green of Lake Superior,) 1; New Jersey, 1.

The professions of these gentlemen are as follows:—lawyers, 6; merchant physicians, 8; lumbermen, 1; farmers, 1; miscellaneous, 3; publishers, (Carey of Midland Sentinel,) 1; millers, 2; masons, (Giesner of Branch Co., a native of the Key Stone State, and a wide-awake publican,) 1; farmers and millers, 2; engineer, (Greenfield of Ontonagon,) 1; baker (Mayor Loomis of Jackson,) 1; nacceman, 1; tavern keeper, (Rosen of Macomb,) 1; printer, (Woolnough of Battle Creek Journal,) 1.

The three oldest members of the House are Dr. Fallas of Kent Co. who is 59, and Robinson of Washtenaw and Mr. Keiser of St. Joseph who are both 59 years of age. The two youngest members are of Midland and Smith of St. Clair, who have a native of Michigan in the House named Mulholland who is 48 years of age, and a native of Wayne, also a native Michiganian is 43 years old.

The leading members of the House are the Republicans; they are Dickson of

the country will reap no beneficial results from such a discussion, neither is such the sign of either President or Senators.— If the total disregard of all principles of duty, the changing, and slave propagandist spirit which has characterized the action of the Democratic party in the administration of domestic affairs, have rent the party into hostile camps, divided it with bitter feuds. Its leaders, divine the handwriting upon the wall; and with the desperation of drowning men clutch at every straw, with the delusive hope that it will save them from destruction. There is no system of domestic policy upon which they can unite, and they are anxiously scanning the horizon of foreign affairs endeavoring to discover some rising cloud upon which to hang their bones of the future.— With this aim, the President invites a million dollars may be placed in his hands as the basis of a negotiation with Spain. All the power and patronage of the General Government will be brought to bear, to carry the measure through. Not only so, but it has already assumed a strict party aspect. The Democratic Senators caucus have pledged their support, and their majority assures its passage in that branch.

In the House their majority is less decided, and many will hesitate to follow the lead of the Executive, but the history of the Lecompton fraud is yet fresh in the minds of the people, and there is little ground of hope but what in the hour of the administration will again triumph. But why this effort to pass the bill when the mind is deaf to all our offers of lavish donations? It is simply that the Democracy embroil the country in a foreign war, and thus direct the public attention from their iniquitous home policy. They are hoping for the result of their action, they state not to place the foulest blot upon national honor, with eager haste they gather around the treasury, anxious to lighten the present and burden the future burdens of the country. Men, other than moderate politicians would be alarmed at the unprecedented power with which the President is seeking to invest himself.— During the present session he has not only assumed the authority to purchase Cuba on such terms as he may see fit, with unconstitutional use of thirty millions of dollars, he is also seeking the power to construct a Pacific Railroad—to move and sustain an Army in Mexico, and to use a combined Military and Naval force of the Republic against whatever Spanish or Mexican States he may choose, each pro-looking to the absorption of millions of people's money. Were the President acknowledged possessor of all the real and fabulous virtues of Washington, we could well hesitate before clothing him with such unlimited power, and the mere attempt to confer it upon the present incumbent is sufficient to fill the mind with apprehensions for the safety of our liberties.

It will wait the action of the majority, feeling assured that their days of

The Colony numbers some 6,000 frugal, industrious and persevering settlers. Its first settlements were made in 1847. From that period to February, 1858, they have been encouraged by the hope and oft-broken promise that the General Government would make the improvements necessary to render their harbor useful to themselves and the commerce of the lake. Disappointed, but not disheartened—contemptuously abandoning the illusion, purposely imposed upon them by designing demagogues, to lure them to the support of National Administrations which have been faithless and perfidious to all the interests of the people and of commerce upon our western lakes—they last winter applied to the Legislature for, and obtained authority to make loans and levy a tax upon the township-composing their Colony, to an amount not property, for the purpose of themselves prosecuting an improvement which the Government ought to have made but refused to do.

Under this authority, this feeble but determined Colony have taxed themselves and pushed forward an immense public work, with a vigor and success worthy of all praise and encouragement. They have constructed a canal across the tongue of land alluded to, which is 584 feet long, 170 feet wide, and six feet deep. The depth of this canal, it is confidently expected and ascertained, from scientific calculation, will, when the piers contemplated shall be completed, be sufficiently increased by the current of water which will pass between them, for the passage of ordinary sail and steam vessels engaged in the commerce of the lakes. They (Colonists) have also built parallel piers, one 275 feet long, the other 225 feet long, forty feet wide from bottom to top. This work has cost them an expenditure of over \$15,000, besides an immense amount of gratuitous toil. To complete their piers, by extending one 752 and the other 732 feet, of the same width of those already constructed, it is estimated will cost them an expenditure of \$14,000 more. A contract for this work, at the price named, has been let. This additional heavy outlay they felt themselves unable to meet, without making greater sacrifice than they ought to be expected to make alone for a public work, the cost of which was estimated by government officers would amount to from \$105,000 to \$116,000. To assist them in the prosecution of their stupendous undertaking, they ask the encouraging aid of the State. This aid is not asked in money, but in a donation of the swamp lands in townships 6 north, 14 and 15 west, containing, as your committee are informed by the Commissioner of the Land Office, only 11,388,56 acres. And even this is not asked as a gift; but upon the "condition precedent," imposed by the act of Congress, that they shall drain the land before title to it shall be given to them. They are willing to toil on cheerfully, and render the State additional service, by draining and rendering the same a source of revenue to the treasury, if it shall only

A humorous report has been made by Senator Conger on the sufferings of your worthy Circuit Judge—H. H. Flavel, J. Littlejohn. There is no likelihood of the re-districting of the Circuits at this session. Judge L. must wait until the 9th District becomes a little more populous before any redress can be afforded him. I have no doubt that the complaints of Judge L. are just and consider the report made by the Judiciary Committee on the subject in bad taste. Senator Hayden will do what he can for the relief of Judge Littlejohn if any action is taken on the Senate bill for the re-districting of the State Judicial purposes.

A bill is before the Senate for the election of additional Circuit Court Commissioners in several of the larger and more populous counties. Wayne Co. has two Government ones, and additional ones. The bill is now before the Judiciary Committee, and originated with Senator Muzzy of Berrien Co.

Among the bills introduced into the House on Saturday was the following: Mr. Buslinell, by unanimous consent, introduced, A bill to protect the "relies of antiquity."

The following is the bill:

**3** Michigan **3**  
Vignette—Train of cars in motion.

**Detroit and St. Joseph Rail Road BANK, Will pay THREE DOLLARS on demand to N. Eddy, or Bearer.**  
No. 2796. A JACKSON, May 9.  
W. Budington, Cash. (Factory.) M. C. Hough, Pres.

On motion of Mr. Woolnough, The bill was referred to the committee on ways and means.

A bad bill decidedly!

Through the kindness of Mr. A. S. Butler, the compiler of the Legislative Manual, I have been enabled to obtain some interesting statistics:

Two of the Senators are of foreign birth, Barns (of England) and Dudgeon (of Ireland,) both of Wayne Co. Nineteen of the Senators are natives of the State of New York, among others our own immediate Senator, Hon. Philotus Hayden, who is 50 years of age, and has returned his profession as "Miscellaneous." Of the rest of the Senators, 3 are natives of Vermont; 3 of Connecticut; 1 each of Kentucky, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Maine and Massachusetts.

Hon. E. B. Fairfield, Lieutenant Governor and President *ex officio* of the Senate is by profession a preacher and teacher; is 37 years of age, and a native of Virginia.

Hon. James Birney, Senator from the north-eastern portion of the Lower Peninsula is a son of James S. Birney of Liberty Party memory, is 41 years old and a native of Kentucky.

The professions of the Senators are, printers (Barns and Pond,) 2; physicians, 2; lawyers, 5; farmers, 11; merchants, 4; mine engin'er, (Dickinson of Lake Superior,) 1; banker, (Gorham,) 1; miscellaneous, 2; not declared, (Woolnough,

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The leading members of the House on the Republican side are Dickey of Calhoun, McMahon of Washtenaw and Macomb. On the "Democratic" side, the members of the House are—

In the Senate, Mr. Trumbull of the land Co. from a select Committee reported in Constitutional amendments reported in verse to striking the word "white" out of the Constitution; against the extension of the right of suffrage to women. The Committee recommended instead of biennial sessions, recommend the striking out of clause of the constitution, provided for calling out of a jury in the laying of highway; also for striking out that clause of the constitution which prevents the Legislature from granting licenses for the sale of intoxicating liquors; and for an amendment of the individual liability clause of the constitution, and inserting in lieu thereof of an amount equal to double the value of stock subscribed by stockholders in banking institutions.

The Committee reported that other amendments had been suggested and demanded by the people, but if more presented they would not be acted upon by the people.

These amendments cannot be submitted to the people, if they are adopted, before Nov. 1860, according to an opinion of Attorney General Howard.

No action has yet been taken in the Registry Law other than the introduction of the bill. — D. C. H.

LANSING, Feb. 1, 1858

The Swamp Land Law of last session was amended in the Senate to-day providing for the advertising and sale of the newly patented swamp lands—not already advertised. The lands are to be advertised by ranges instead of by descriptions under the old law. The time and place of sale is given to the Commissioner.

Section 8 of the old law is so amended that those persons disposed to pre-empt need not come out here and make affidavit before the Commissioner, but can make affidavit before any justice of the peace, or notary public. This will be good news to the Squatters of the Swamp Land Districts affected by this bill.

A Bill amending the limits of the several Judicial Circuits passed the Senate this afternoon. It makes but few alterations in the boundaries of the Districts except in the 7th and 10th Circuits. —

Allegan Journal

Nov. 1860



trial the administration will again triumph. But why this effort to pass the bill when Spain is deaf to all our offers of lavish millions? It is simply that the Democracy may embroil the country in a foreign war and thus direct the public attention from their iniquitous home policy. They care nothing for the result of their action, they hesitate not to place the foulest blot upon our national honor, with eager haste they gather around the treasury, anxious to drain the present and burden the future resources of the country. Men, other than desperate politicians would be alarmed at the unprecedented power with which the President is seeking to invest himself. During the present session he has not only asked for the authority to purchase Cuba upon such terms as he may see fit, with the unconstitutional use of thirty million dollars, he is also seeking the power to construct a Pacific Railroad—to move and maintain an Army in Mexico, and to use the combined Military and Naval force of the Republic against whatever Spanish American States he may choose, each project looking to the absorption of millions of the peoples money. Were the President the acknowledged possessor of all the real and fabulous virtues of Washington, we might well hesitate before clothing him with such unlimited power, and the mere proposition to confer it upon the present incumbent is sufficient to fill the mind with serious apprehensions for the safety of our cherished rights.

We will wait the action of the majority, feeling assured that their days of misrule are numbered, and despite the fraud and corruption of the present hope for a brighter future, knowing that "whom the Gods would destroy they first make mad."

The Record now grows ravinous over our "penny-a-line" articles. Now we never fancied this sum over remunerative, but doubtless to him—poor soul—it looks prodigal, surrounded as he is by a "lack of genial assistance."

ed by the current of water which will pass between them, for the passage of ordinary sail and steam vessels engaged in the commerce of the lakes. They (Colonists) have also built parallel piers, one 275 feet long, the other 225 feet long, forty feet wide from bottom to top. This work has cost them an expenditure of over \$15,000, besides an immense amount of gratuitous toil. To complete their piers, by extending one 782 and the other 732 feet, of the same width of those already constructed, it is estimated will cost them an expenditure of \$14,000 more. A contract for this work, at the price named, has been let. This additional heavy outlay they felt themselves unable to meet, without making greater sacrifice than they ought to be expected to make alone for a public work, the cost of which was estimated by government officers would amount to from \$105,000 to \$116,000. To assist them in the prosecution of their stupendous undertaking, they ask the encouraging aid of the State. This aid is not asked in money, but in a donation of the swamp lands in townships 6 north, 14 and 15 west, containing, as your committee are informed by the Commissioner of the Land Office, only 11,388,56 acres. And even this is not asked as a gift; but upon the "condition precedent," imposed by the act of Congress, that they shall drain the land before title to it shall be given to them. They are willing to toil on cheerfully, and render the State additional service, by draining and rendering the same a source of revenue to the treasury, if it shall only secure—as it will—the completion of a work they have so much at heart; for which they have endured long years of privation, and made greater sacrifices than any other community of twice their numbers, for any similar works, and which, when finished, will be a work of great public benefit, an ornament to the State, and a monument of the untiring industry of the Hollanders of Ottawa.

Believing that the prayer of the petitioners should be granted—that it can be

on demand to N. Eddy, or Bearer. No. 2790, A JACKSON, MAY 9.

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The youngest member of the Senate is Pond of Washtenaw, who is a printer and 22 years of age; and the oldest, Mr. Moucham of Cass who is 60 years of age and is a farmer by profession.

George the Republican leader in the Senate is 60 years of age, and is now serving his third term in the Senate. He has been appointed President *pro tempore* of

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The Committee reported that amendments had been suggested and demanded by the people, but if not presented they would not be acted upon by the people.

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A Bill amending the limits of the several Judicial Circuits passed the Senate this afternoon. It makes but few alterations in the boundaries of the Districts except in the 7th and 10th Circuits. A new law is attached to the 10th Circuit, Alpena and Bay counties heretofore attached to any Circuit were placed in the 10th also. Nothing was done for the relief of Judge Littlejohn. An effort was made to strike out Manitow county from the 9th Circuit, and placing it in the Superior District where it properly belongs under this Constitution, was lost.

The Legislature have concluded not to establish any new Circuits owing to the stringency of the times. By the next session the people will demand the