12-27-1887

Rules of the House of Representatives

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Mr. RANDALL submitted the following REPORT:

The Committee on Rules, to which were referred various propositions to amend the rules of the House, has had the same under consideration, and makes the following partial report:

The committee has not had time to conclude its consideration of all the propositions referred to it, and therefore reports back to the House such measures only as it deems necessary to be disposed of in order to complete the organization of the House.

The committee recommends the adoption of the rules of the Forty-ninth Congress until the further order of the House, with the following changes:

The Committee on Library shall consist of five members.

Rule X shall be amended by inserting after the words "On Rivers and Harbors, to consist of fifteen members," the following words: "On the Merchant Marine and Fisheries, to consist of thirteen members."

Rule XI shall be amended by inserting after clause 8 the words, "to the merchant marine and fisheries, to the Committee on the Merchant Marine and Fisheries."

Rule XII shall be amended by striking out the word "and" before the words "Mines and Mining," and inserting after the said words, "and Private Land Claims."

Clause 4, of Rule XXI shall be so amended as to read as follows:

"All bills for the improvement of rivers and harbors, for the establishment or change of post-routes, and all bills of a private nature, shall be delivered to the Clerk, as in the case of memorials and petitions, for reference to appropriate committees."

That clause 1 of Rule XXII be so amended as to read as follows:

"1. Members having petitions or memorials or bills of a private nature to present may deliver them to the Clerk, indorsing their names and the reference or disposition to be made thereof; and said petitions and memorials and bills of a private nature, except such as in the judgment of the Speaker are of an obscene or insulting character, shall be entered on the Journal, with the names of the members presenting them, and the Clerk shall furnish a transcript of such entry to the official reporters of debates for publication in the Record."

That clause 2 of Rule XXII be so amended as to read as follows:

"2. Any petition or memorial or private bill excluded under this rule shall be returned to the member from whom it was received; and petitions and private bills which have been inappropriately referred may,
by direction of the committee having possession of the same, be properly referred in the manner originally presented; and an erroneous reference of a petition or private bill under this clause shall not confer jurisdiction upon the committee to consider or report the same."

That Rule XLVI be amended so as to read as follows:

"There shall be printed 500 copies of each bill of a public nature, of which 25 shall be deposited in the office of the Clerk of the House and the remainder shall be deposited in the document room of the House for the use of members; and there shall be printed 100 copies of each private bill, which shall be deposited in the document room of the House for the use of members. Motions to print additional numbers of any bill, report, resolution, or other public document, shall be referred to the Committee on Printing; and the report of the committee thereon shall be accompanied by an estimate of the probable cost thereof."

That there shall be a Select Committee on Reform in the Civil Service, to be appointed by the Speaker, to consist of thirteen members, to which shall be referred all propositions touching the Civil Service of the United States.

That there shall be a Select Committee on the Election of President and Vice-President and Representatives in Congress, to be appointed by the Speaker, to consist of thirteen members, to which shall be referred all propositions touching the election and tenure of office of the President and Vice-President and Representatives in Congress, the count of the electoral vote, and the succession to the office of President.

That there shall be a Select Committee on the Eleventh Census, to be appointed by the Speaker, to consist of thirteen members, to which shall be referred all proposed legislation concerning the eleventh census of the United States and the apportionment of representation in the House of Representatives.

That there shall be a Select Committee on Indian Depredation Claims, to be appointed by the Speaker, to consist of thirteen members, to which shall be referred all proposed legislation relating to claims of citizens of the United States on account of property destroyed or taken by Indians, including appropriations therefor.

That there shall be a Select Committee on Ventilation and Acoustics, to be appointed by the Speaker, to consist of seven members, to which shall be referred all propositions relating to the ventilation and acoustics of the hall of the House of Representatives.

That there shall be a Select Committee on the Alcoholic Liquor Traffic, to be appointed by the Speaker, to consist of eleven members, to which shall be referred all propositions touching the alcoholic liquor traffic.