

itself into a Committee of the Whole to take into consideration the general file of bills.

Mr. Morrison in the Chair.

After spending some time therein, the committee rose and through their Chairman reported that they had had under consideration

S. F. No. 20, a bill for an act to regulate elections in this State, and to reduce the several acts relating to the same to one act.

Had made some progress thereon, and asked leave to sit again,

Which was granted.

Mr. Paulding moved a call of the House,

Which was ordered, and the following members answered to their names :

Messrs. Banning, Baxter, Cathcart, Cornell, Driscoll, Hanscome, Hoskins, Hayden, Howe, Hunt, Mantor, Morrison, Nessel, Paulding, Pettit, Sargeant, Stewart, Strecker, Tefft, Warner, Wheeler and Wood.

On notion of Mr. Mantor, further proceedings under the call were dispensed with.

The Speaker then laid before the House the following message from His Excellency the Governor :

EXECUTIVE OFFICE, Minnesota, }
St. Paul, Feb. 16, 1861. }

Hon Jared Benson, Speaker of the House of Representatives :

SIR:—I herewith return to the House, in which it originated, a bill entitled

An Act to amend an act entitled "An Act to establish and define the boundaries of Meeker county," passed Feb. 23rd, 1856.

No subject more requires the careful attention of committees and legislators than the description of county lines. And in our own State this subject has been hitherto too little regarded.

From this inattention some of the county lines, as described in the laws, are impossible; others are insufficient to complete the boundary of the county, as in the original law relating to Meeker county. By the acts creating and bounding the counties of Monongalia and Kandiyohi, the townships 118 and 119, of Range 35, are included in both those counties; while, by other acts, counties are divided so that the territory of Ramsey county lies in at least three separate tracts.

A less weighty objection is the inconvenience of determining county lines, when it is necessary to refer to laws passed at different sessions, and published in different volumes. Over twenty-five of the counties of this State require the examination

of from two to seven different enactments.

Thus the original law establishing Meeker county, which the bill now returned follows, gives the point of beginning as the "south-west corner of Wright county." To ascertain that point it becomes necessary to examine the description of the boundaries successively of Wright, Carver and Davis.

The bill is also inaccurate in defining the course as "south-west," &c., without adding the qualification "along the township line between," &c.

Perhaps these considerations would not have induced the return of the bill, did I not think this a favorable opportunity to present this matter to the attention of the Legislature, and to invite the inauguration of a system for the future, of describing counties by the natural boundaries, and the lines of the Government survey. Those who are interested in this matter will find notes and memoranda of errors in the description of the boundaries of many other counties in this office.

It is much to be regretted that the provisions of the Constitution, requiring a vote of the people in the adjustment of the boundaries of organized counties, in itself so excellent a provision, should be in the way of the Legislative correction, by speedy enactment, of errors of passed legislation that become more difficult of adjustment every year.

Respectfully,
ALEX. RAMSEY.

Also, the following:

EXECUTIVE OFFICE, Minnesota, }
St. Paul, Feb. 16, 1861. }

Hon. Jared Benson, Speaker of the House of Representatives:

SIR:— I have approved and signed Joint Resolutions, concerning the destitution in Kansas.

Also,

Joint Resolutions tendering congratulations to the State of Tennessee.

Respectfully,
ALEX. RAMSEY.

On motion of Mr. Hoskins the vote by which

H. F. No. 31, a bill for an act to amend an act entitled "An Act to establish and define the boundaries of Meeker county,"

Passed the House, was reconsidered and the bill ordered to lie upon the table.

On motion of Mr. Tefft, the message of the Governor relating to H. F. No. 31, was referred to the Committee on Towns and Counties.