

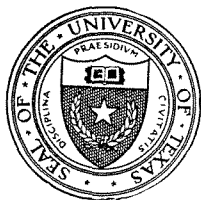
Debates in the Texas Constitutional Convention of 1875

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PREFACE

Publication of the debates of a convention which formed a state constitution that has been in use for more than fifty years, would seem to require no argument for its justification. No official report of the debates was kept or published by the Texas Convention of 1875, and this effort to supply such a report had to draw upon the contemporary newspapers for the material presented. Of those papers the most useful was the *Daily State Gazette* (Austin). Other useful papers were the *Austin Statesman*, *Dallas Herald*, *Galveston News*, *Houston Telegraph*, and *Panola Watchman* (Carthage).

The committee reports, ordinances, resolutions, motions, substitutes, etc., were printed in the *Journal* of the convention. Only enough of the subject before the convention from time to time has been reproduced in the present volume to make the debating clear. Since both the *Journal* and the present work are arranged chronologically, and since the *Journal* is very well indexed, it was considered unnecessary to make page references to the *Journal* when referring to majority and minority reports, ordinances, substitutes, etc. The editor's summaries of the debates are in the past tense; but the exact words of the delegates, when available, were used and quoted. In the latter case I have followed the speaker's punctuation and paragraphing exactly.

The present work was undertaken while the editor was serving as Adjunct Professor of History at The University of Texas, and was begun at the suggestion of Mr. E. W. Winkler, Librarian of The University of Texas, and Dr. E. C. Barker, Professor of American History in the same university. I wish to acknowledge their many helpful suggestions.

S. S. MCKAY.

Lubbock, Texas, April, 1930.