

1908

The Selection of Tallahassee as the Capital

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THE SELECTION OF TALLAHASSEE AS THE CAPITAL.

Published in House Journal of 1903.

Mr. Wall, Chairman of a Special Committee on Examination of a Site for a Governor's Mansion, submitted the, following report:

Sir— On the 15th of this month there was presented and read to this body a communication from the Council of the city of Tallahassee, in which they agree to give a "Fee Simple Title" to six town lots of land within the city for a Governor's Mansion, provided the Legislature will grant \$20,000 to build the same.

Therefore, I ask permission that the following history relative to these lands be presented in the Journal.

WALL (of Putnam).

An act to provide for the establishment of the seat of Government in the Territory of Florida.

Section 1. Be it enacted by the Governor and the Legislative Council of the Territory of Florida, That with a view to the permanent location of the seat of government for the Territory aforesaid, there shall be appointed by the Governor two Commissioners, one from that part of the Territory known as East Florida, one from that known as West Florida, that the Commissioners thus appointed shall meet at St. Marks on the Gulf of Mexico on the first day of October next, and then proceed carefully to explore and examine all that section of country embraced between the Ockolockony on the west and the Suwannee river on the east and between the northern boundary line of said Territory and the Gulf of Mexico.

Section 2: Be it further enacted, That the said Commissioners shall be and they are hereby authorized and empowered after making the examination aforesaid to select the most eligible and convenient situation for the seat of Government for the Territory of Florida.

Section 3. Be it further enacted, That the said Commissioners shall keep a journal, and take notes on the topography of the country examined by virtue of this act, particularly describing the quality of the soil, the local

situation, and the streams by which it is watered. That on or before the first day of January next the said Commissioners shall submit to the Governor of the Territory a report in writing of all their proceedings by virtue of this act, accompanied with their journals and topographical notes on the country by them examined.

Section 4. Be it further enacted, That if the said Commissioners should disagree with regard to the situation on which the seat of Government should be located, then and in that case, the journals and topographical notes of the said Commissioners, together with the subject of their disagreement, shall be submitted to the Governor of the Territory who shall be and he is hereby authorized from all the information adduced, to decide in favor of the situation selected by either Commissioner.

Section 5. Be it further enacted, That the situation thus selected shall thenceforth constitute the seat of government for the Territory of Florida.

Section 6. Be it further enacted, That the next session the Legislative Council of said Territory shall be held at the situation selected by the said Commissioners, or by the Governor, and either of them in case of the disagreement of said Commissioners, if in the opinion of the Governor the Legislative Council can be there accommodated.

Section 7. Be it further enacted, That if the Seat of Government for the Territory aforesaid should not be located in time for the meeting and accommodation of the Council at its next session then and in that case the Governor shall be and he is hereby authorized and empowered to issue his proclamation, directing the next session of the Legislative Council to be held at the City of St. Augustine.

Section 8. Be it further enacted, That the said Commissioners shall receive five dollars each per day in full compensation for all services rendered by virtue of this act.

Endorsed— An act to provide for the establishment of the Seat of Government in the Territory of Florida.

To lie upon the table until Wednesday, March 2.

Five copies.

Leave to sit on Monday.

Leave to sit on Wednesday, the 18th of June— Passed.