

History of the Bitter Struggle to Ratify Suffrage

By A. V. GOODPASTURE, JR. "The battle is over, the fight is won." When the message was flashed to all parts of the United States Thursday morning...

of the ten members of the committee. Senators J. W. Rice and W. M. Cameron, the dissenting members, submitted a minority report, recommending that the resolution be referred to the next session...

"To the Speaker and Members of the Senate: The committee on constitutional amendments has carefully considered Senate joint resolution No. 1, and is of the opinion to report the same with amendments...

"The leading argument presented by the anti-ratificationists was that action by the state to ratify the amendment would be a violation of the constitution of the state. That portion of the constitution, upon which they based their contentions, provides that no amendment to the constitution of the state shall be ratified by the Legislature unless the proposed amendment was submitted to Congress prior to the election of the Legislature."

The supplemental bill was filed. Senators Gwinn, Haston and Collins were appointed a committee to investigate the legal status of the injunctions granted by the court. Several of the Senators expressed the opinion that Judge Langford nor any other court had any authority to enjoin the Legislature nor any officials of the two houses for proceeding in the discharge of their legislative duties.

During the two days of their disposal the opponents of suffrage endeavored to make the best of their time in an effort to secure sufficient public sentiment against the amendment to influence some of the members who voted for the resolution.

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Woman's vote was not counted among those favoring the amendment. Mr. Burn's vote with the ratificationists on the question proved a severe blow to the anti-ratificationists to table the amendment resolution. This failed, as the vote resulted in a tie, 48 to 48. On the motion to table, Representative Harry Burn of McMinn county, voted aye, but when the question came up, Mr. Burn was counted among those favoring the amendment.

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When the question was put to a vote, 50 members voted against reconsideration and nine answered present, but not voting. The following motion was then entered by Mr. Riddick: 'Mr. Speaker, I move that the clerk of this House be and he is hereby instructed to transmit to the Senate through the ordinary procedure Senate Joint Resolution No. 1.'

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