

Society," dated June 2d, 1826, and published at Boston; which was ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Compton asked and obtained leave to report a bill to be entitled, An act to alter the constitution of this state, in such a manner that the governor and council may be elected by a *viva voce* vote of the members of the legislature, and that the names of persons voting, and those for whom they vote, be inserted on the journals of the house; whereupon Messrs. Compton, Gibbons, Bourne, Wright and Armstrong, were appointed a committee to prepare said bill.

Mr. Hope asked and obtained leave to report a bill to be entitled, An act to alter and amend so much of the constitution and form of government as relates to the clerks of county courts and registers of wills of this state; whereupon Messrs. Hope, Bennett, John W. Thomas, Turner and Keene were appointed a committee to prepare said bill.

Mr. Chapman asked and obtained leave to introduce a bill to be entitled, An additional supplement to An act for limitation of certain actions, for avoiding suits at law; whereupon Messrs. Chapman, Peach and Stricker were appointed a committee to prepare the same. Mr. Chapman accordingly reported said bill; which was read and laid on the table.

Mr. Tyson, chairman of the standing committee on grievances and courts of justice, delivered the following report:

The committee of grievances and courts of justice, to whom was referred the leave to bring in a bill, entitled, An act to repeal an act, entitled, An act to tax certain offices, passed at December session 1823, and the act to explain and amend the same, passed at December session 1824; having reported said bill to the house, beg leave further to report the reasons which have induced them to frame that bill.

On examination of the grounds which induced the passage of the law proposed to be repealed, your committee find, that the tax thereby imposed was created in consequence of the very depressed situation of the finances of the state in 1823. It was necessary at that time to provide for a deficiency in the revenue, as will be seen on reference to the report of the committee of ways and means of that year; which declared that *under existing circumstances considering the extraordinary pressure of those times, the committee could not recommend an increase of the direct tax, although they believed a direct tax to be the most just and equitable mode of taxation, but they recommended at that time a tax on the actual receipt of the clerks and registers.* That report, after recommending a tax on certain other articles, declared, that *the amount to be derived from the above sources was doubtful, as they were new and untried.* The